



## Stalking the stalkers

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## Betting on a market crash

Essay page 16

# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER Cloudy and cool

40P (B 45P)

# Grandees issue grave warning on Europe



Coining controversy: John Major, who was warned by top Tories

ANTHONY BEVINS

Political Editor

A phalanx of the most senior figures in the Tory party last night issued an unprecedented challenge to John Major over Europe with a stark warning that he should not tolerate any retreat into xenophobic rejection of greater European co-operation.

In a letter to *The Independent*, the party's old guard, including the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath and the former Deputy Prime Minister Lord Whitelaw, make it clear that they will give no ground to Lady Thatcher and the party's virulent Euro-phobes.

"Britain's future lies as a committed member of an interdependent Europe, as a country which sees the European Union as an opportunity, not a threat," the letter says.

"The British instinct is to lead, not

walk away. Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders."

It was made clear last night that the signatories, including three former foreign secretaries – Douglas Hurd, Lord Howe and Lord Carrington – along with the European Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, endorse the Prime Minister's "muscular" approach to Europe.

But with an eye on battles ahead at next month's party conference in Bournemouth, the letter says: "For us now to rule out British membership of a single currency would be to betray our national interest."

"To countenance withdrawal from the European Union would be to court disaster." Both demands have been made by the Tory right-wing, and there are real fears that Mr Major might seek to win pre-election unity by offering concessions that are utterly unacceptable to Sir

Edward and the other Tory grandes. Marking the 50th anniversary of Churchill's Zurich speech on the future of European co-operation, the letter concludes: "To commit ourselves, by contrast, to a positive role in the leadership of Europe is the most fitting tribute we can pay to Churchill's Zurich vision."

But with an eye on battles ahead yesterday, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, warned that a single currency would divide Europe. He also warned against blindly leaping towards ever-greater integration, "flailing for footholds that may prove precarious or illusory".

*The Independent* letter was careful not to attack that cautious stance, and it was emphasised that Mr Hurd had issued similar warnings about the single currency when in office.

That critical approach to the single currency was raised last year by



Mr Major in a bilateral meeting with the French President Jacques Chirac.

A study of the "Ins and Outs" –

the implications of a single currency for those joining up, and those re-

maining outside – was formally commissioned at last December's Madrid summit. It is to be completed in time for the second Dublin summit, in December.

Nevertheless, Mr Rifkind's warning was seen by some yesterday as an attempt to pander to the Tory Euro-sceptics in advance of the party conference.

Certainly, that was the interpretation put on it by John Redwood, Liberal Democrat spokesman, said: "I am delighted the Foreign Secretary has decided to warn our European partners of the divisions currency union is causing and will cause, if they press head."

"If Britain abolishes the pound, many of us will want our country back. We want British economic policy under democratic control."

"Currency union is a disaster waiting to happen. Britain is right to warn of its dangers. We must use

every means at our disposal to make sure the nightmare does not become a reality."

Another leading Tory Euro-sceptic, Sir Michael Spicer, said Mr Rifkind's warning that a single currency was "bad for the EU" was "excellent, and the tougher we are on that the better".

Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said: "It is not Europe that is being ripped apart by economic and monetary union; it is the Tory government. Mr Rifkind would be better employed lecturing his own backbenchers on the folly of Euro-nihilism."

"The single currency will eliminate exchange rate risks and transaction costs for trade, tourism and investment between participating member states. It will place Europe firmly centre stage in the global economy."

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## Major ventures into the moral maze

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

John Major last night attempted to reclaim the moral high ground from Tony Blair by denying the charge of "uncaring Conservatives" and insisting there was a moral case for tax cuts.

The Prime Minister provoked bows of indignation from Opposition leaders, who said Mr Major had a cheek to claim the moral high ground after the Tory sex and financial scandals and the arms-to-Iraq affair. It was a high risk venture which could backfire on the Tories like the "back to basics"

theme, but senior Tory sources said Mr Major had been irritated by the Labour leader's stand on morality. "He doesn't believe Labour has any right to claim that it is more moral than the Conservatives," said a source.

Mr Major said: "I can hear the cries of 'uncaring Conservatives' already forming on the lips of our opponents. Cut taxes? Just an electoral bribe, they say. End capital taxation? Just a ramp for the well to do. But these cries just blur the argument. They are nonsense."

"We should not be put off by them. They are the baggage of a welfare state mentality that

distrusts personal choice and respects personal ownership."

I rejected the muddled thinking that says a smaller state must be uncaring. And I reject the thinking that equates big government with benevolent government."

His defence for the morality of tax cuts underlined the anxiety of ministers that a tax cut

of our opponents. Cut taxes? Just an electoral bribe, they say. End capital taxation? Just a ramp for the well to do. But these cries just blur the argument. They are nonsense."

"We should not be put off by them. They are the baggage of a welfare state mentality that

Mr Blair said his party would take the Tories "head on" in a debate about political morality. The Labour leader also dared Mr Major to act upon his hints in a radio interview earlier that he might chance a live TV clash with the Labour leader in the election campaign.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader – in a speech mentioning the word "socialist" five times – said: "Perhaps the next poster will be John Major sitting on a cloud with a harp and a halo over his head with the slogan 'go to work on a harp'."

The speech was intended to

herald the publication today of the White Paper on the citizen's charter, but Mr Major decided to use it to counter the appeal of Mr Blair with his brand of Christian socialism. The Tory source said: "Labour keep using the word 'moral' as if they had some sort of moral superiority. We think the opposite is true."

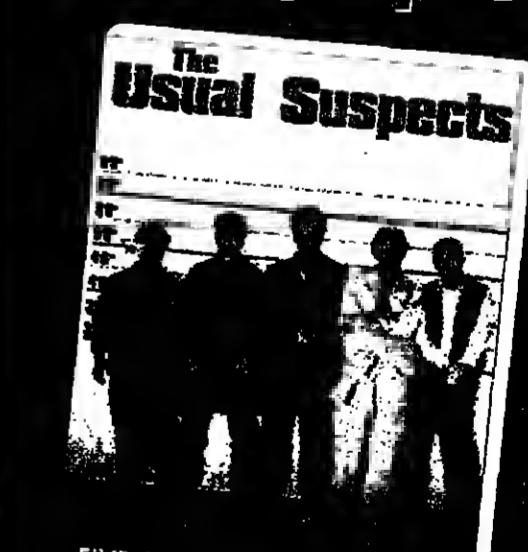
The Prime Minister reaffirmed that the Government would be seeking to slash public expenditure below 40 per cent of national income. "Moral" is a word I usually prefer to leave to the Church but it is apt for low tax yet was responsible for 22 tax rises."

Major speech, page 4

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Beautiful people: Successful applicants (left to right) Ida Kuyte, Phillip Johnson, and Jamie Eason posing yesterday

series when the Advertising Standards Authority received complaints that telling people to have cosmetic surgery so they looked "good enough" for the drink was hurtful to disabled people. The authority ordered that some of the advertisements should be shown only af-

ter 9pm. The company responded that it only intended to satirise vanity and it is now returning to the theme.

A spokeswoman said while many men and women did not believe they were all-round stunners, they did consider a particular part of their body to

be better than anyone else's. More curiously, there were even regional variations.

Lucinda Rayburn, Martin's casting director, is to tour the country to investigate the phenomenon further.

She said: "Last year we had entries from people all over the country thinking they were the best-looking person they knew. However, we did notice regional variations when it came to parts of the body."

"Scotland seemed to be particularly strong on men's legs, there were some particularly good bottoms from Newcastle and some gorgeous lips from East Anglia."

In addition to a television appeal from Sylvester Harvey, Martin's cosmetic surgeon, for viewers to send in photographs of their favoured feature, Ms Rayburn is to extend the search via a national roadshow.

The deadline for applicants to put their best foot (or whatever) forward is 31 October.

Uproar surrounded the last





# First light at dawn of the universe

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

The blue objects in these pictures are thought to be the earliest galaxies to form in the universe, and they could overturn a long-standing theory that the cosmos is filled with "dark matter".

The research, published today in the science journal *Nature* by scientists from the University of Durham, shows that the first galaxies formed when the universe was about 5 billion years old, one-third of its current age. The galaxies are blue because the stars in them are very young; older stars would be redder.

But at the same time, the theory of "cold dark matter" – which suggests that interstellar space is filled with matter which cannot be observed directly because it does not give off light or heat – will come under strain from these results, according to the researchers.

Cosmology theory suggests that after the "Big Bang" 15 billion years ago, the matter in the Universe clumped together under gravity to form stars, and these then clumped into larger groups of stars – the galaxies. "In the standard version of 'cold dark matter', the galaxies continue to form under gravity

up to the present day," said Tom Shanks, who led the team at Durham's department of physics. "But these galaxies [in the picture] have formed rather early for that model."

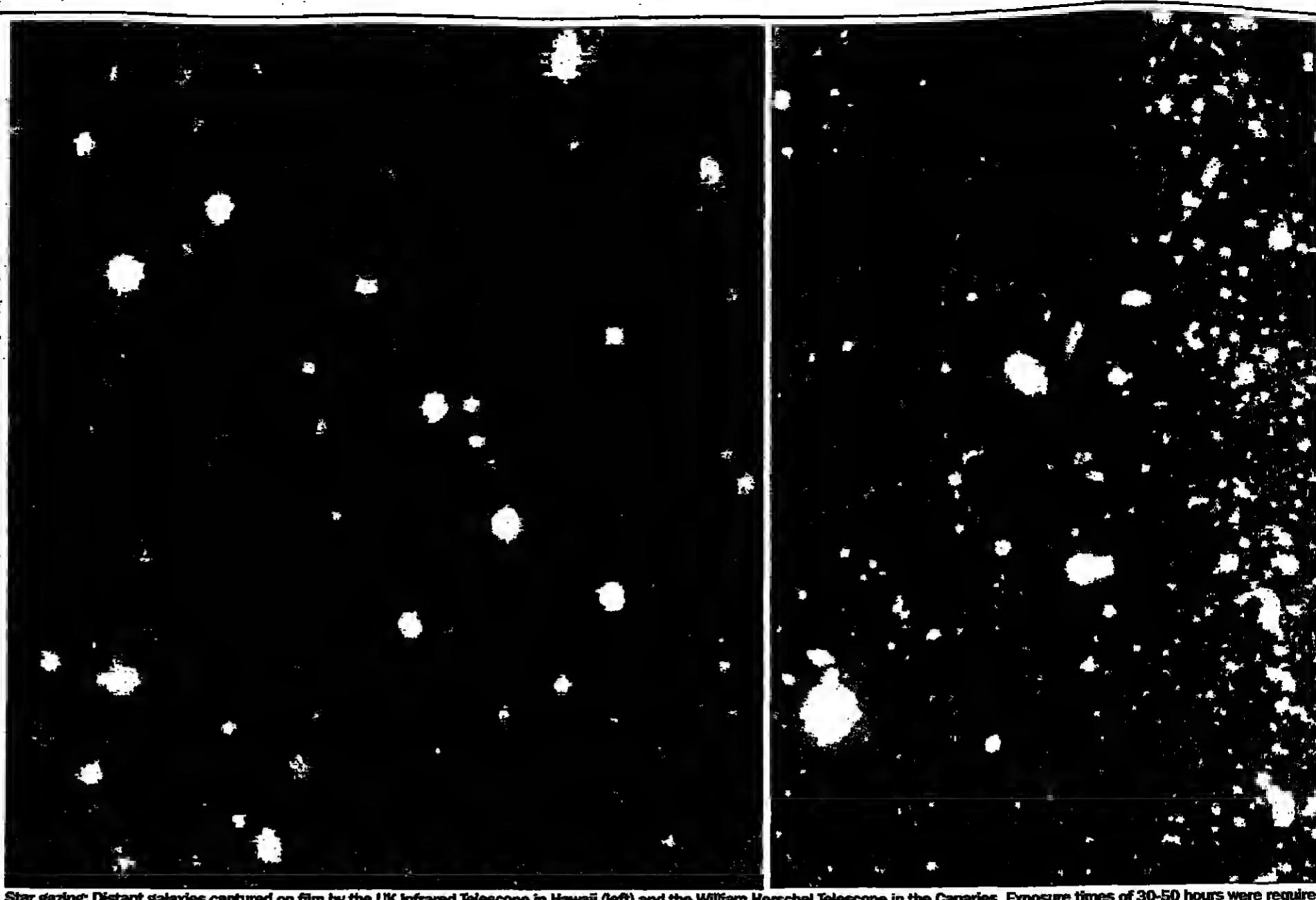
Nigel Metcalfe, another team member, said: "The dark matter theorists can squirm about, but it's a solid problem – there are too many of these young massive galaxies for the simple cold dark matter theory."

The pictures were produced using the William Herschel Telescope in the Canary Islands and the UK Infrared Telescope in Hawaii. They can see a million faint galaxies in an area of sky the size of the Moon, each one a million times too faint to be seen with the naked eye.

The galaxies' age was worked out by determining the "redshift" of their light – caused by them receding as the universe expands. The further away, and older, something is, the more its light is reddened.

Dark matter theory has developed because astronomical observations of the movements of galaxies suggest that something invisible is affecting them. Cold dark matter theory says this is caused by as-yet undetected particles, though other explanations, such as planet-sized objects which do not radiate heat, have been proposed.

Star gazing: Distant galaxies captured on film by the UK Infrared Telescope in Hawaii (left) and the William Herschel Telescope in the Canaries. Exposure times of 30-50 hours were required



# How to beat a stalker: have him stalked

JOJO MOYES

A London private detective agency is turning the tables on stalkers – by stalking them.

The MC Investigations Agency, which introduces its "anti-stalking" service nine months ago, claims it has dealt with four cases non-aggressively, by showing the offender how it feels to be stalked.

"It's a psychologically-based technique in that stalkers like to feel they are in the driving seat. We try to reverse the roles so that the victim feels they're taking back control," said "Mark", head of the agency. Speaking to *The Independent* as controversy raged over the legal difficulties that led to the acquittal on Tuesday of a south London man who had been accused of stalking a female restaurant manager, Mark said the first step was to get as much information as possible about the stalker. This can be easy if the stalker is known to the victim, but can entail more time-consuming methods like call tracing and fingerprinting.

He gave the example of a recent case – a "classic" scenario of the bullied woman, whose partner couldn't let go. "He would watch her and ring her 30 times a day, he would come to the house and threaten her when she refused," he said.

The key, he said, was to find the chink in the stalker's arm.

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

If confirmation were needed, the acquittal on Tuesday of Dennis Chalmers after a four-year campaign of harassment and pestering provides ample justification that a new law on stalking is urgently required.

Margaret Bent, his 36-year-old victim, said she would have to quit her job and move house to escape after Mr Chalmers was cleared of grievous bodily harm and affray. The outcome stands in contrast to three earlier cases where the Crown Prosecution Service secured convictions of stalkers under the

more serious charges contained in the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act.

Janet Anderson, the shadow minister whose own anti-stalking Bill was blocked by the Government earlier this year, yesterday emphasised a key drawback of the current law – the need to prove the stalker intended to cause the harm.

In fact, the Chalmers case raised a different though equally crucial issue – the degree of harm caused. The case hinged. Judge Quentin Campbell told the jury at Inner London Crown Court on whether that harm was really serious. "You

may think she suffered annoyance, panic and emotional distress ... that alone would not be sufficient to find these charges proven.

You have to go a step further and ask yourselves has Miss Bent suffered psychiatric damage and is that damage really serious?"

Although Mr Bent's sup-

porters were unhappy with the judge's direction, the summing up represented the current state of the law. The earlier convictions for actual or grievous bodily harm have only been secured because the extent of psychological harm inflicted on the victims was so severe as

to equate with physical assault. The logic is that the more a victim resists, the less likely she is to see her tormentor brought to justice. But the drafters of the Government's consultation paper on reform appear to be moving, if belatedly, in the right direction. The earlier cases, they say, "cannot be used as a general precedent for dealing with cases of stalking. Victims should not have to suffer to such an extent in order for the law to provide an effective remedy – it is important to be able to take action before the behaviour of the stalker causes such severe harm to their victims."

someone known to this girl and that we understood he wanted to stay, in which case he was going to have to stop."

At first, he said, the stalker was "a bit cocky", so they sent more photographs and began tailing him. "He stopped immediately. He knew we were

following him and he didn't like it," he said. "He told people that someone was trying to ruin his life and that he had never wanted to do her any harm."

The agency believes it is the element of surprise that is effective, as it transfers the feeling of control from stalker to victim. "We've never had an aggressive reaction. But you've got to know the person you're dealing with," Mark said. "You can't rush into it because you wouldn't want to take actions that resulted in harm to the client. It's a non-aggressive method. If we felt there was any danger at all we would call the police as well."

In this case, the woman has not heard from her stalker in five months. Freedom cost her £500 – a relatively cheap price for a relatively simple case.

What was needed, however, was a change in the law, Mark said. "The UK is still so far behind the US in its treatment of stalkers, as [Tuesday's] case shows. This girl has a right to privacy, but what now can the police do?"



Role reversal: Under current law, a victim's best bet may be to employ a private detective like Albert Finney in *Gumshoe*

## Law in urgent need of reform

Cost of listening to a 1 minute answerphone message each day for one month

£11.80	£11.80
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orange



Major's fallen men, from left: Tim Yeo, Stephen Milligan, the Earl of Caithness, David Mellor, Steven Norris, Jonathan Aitken, Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith

# The last time Major said something like this he lost seven of his ministers

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The last time Mr Major attempted to take the high ground with "back to basics" the Government was hit by a series of sex scandals and other scandals. A minister seemed to resign almost every month.

David Mellor was the first, in September 1992, after his affair with a model.

The "back to basics" strategy – the brainchild of Sarah Hogg, then head of the Downing Street policy unit – opened the Tories to the charge of hypocrisy.

The aim had been to reclaim the centre ground for the Conservatives as the party of family values, at the party conference in Blackpool in 1993. It degenerated into an end-of-the-pier joke.

Steven Norris admitted to having an affair at the same conference. He survived the storm, but never got the Cabinet promotion which many felt he deserved.

Almost endless scandals made the year that followed seem like a Whitehall farce.

Within three months, Tim Yeo, an environment minister, had resigned after admitting having fathered an illegitimate child.

Stephen Milligan, a rising star on the Tory back bench, died in a bizarre sex act. He was found with a ligature round his neck, an orange in his mouth, and dressed in lingerie.

The shock of Mr Milligan's death was followed by the alle-

gations over David Ashby sharing a bed with another man, which led to a celebrated libel action.

Lord Caithness resigned

after his wife shot herself, and the toll continued as Hartley Booth, once a trusted adviser of Margaret Thatcher, admitted having an affair with his researcher.

Michael Brown, a government whip, resigned over allegations of a gay affair and Alan Clark, a former minister who

had left the Commons in 1992, described in his diaries a series of sexual adventures which few works of fiction could surpass.

Robert Hughes, a close ally of the Prime Minister, resigned after admitting an affair with a constituent. This year, the Prime Minister's patience with ministers was exhausted. When Rod Richards was accused of an affair, he was ordered to resign within 24 hours.

The sex scandals were overtaken by other embarrassments for the Government, which led to Mr Major establishing the Nolan committee on standards in public life in an attempt to clean up the Tories' image.

Mr Milligan had been the parliamentary private secretary to Jonathan Aitken, the defence minister, who resigned in 1994 to fight allegations of accepting hospitality at the Ritz in Paris. Neil Hamilton, another minister, resigned after a similar controversy, and his libel action against the *Guardian* will go ahead during next month's Conservative Party conference.

There have been other allegations – two Tory MPs appeared to have been prepared to table Commons questions in return for cash.

Mr Major, unlike Baroness Thatcher, has avoided using the Bible as his text for his political beliefs. He launched his renewed campaign on morality as a reaction to the Christian Socialism of Tony Blair. It could become known as Christian Capitalism, unless it backfires on Mr Major.

## Why moral is the apt word

These are extracts from John Major's *Spectator* lecture last night:

"Moral" is a word I usually prefer to leave to the Church but it is apt for what I intend to say. For example, is it moral to take from individuals the right to make personal decisions? I think not. Is it moral to impose obligations on employers like the Social Chapter and the minimum wage that will cost jobs and prevent those without jobs from getting them? Again, I think not. Is it moral to compulsorily take too much tax from people for government to spend and diminish individual choices? My answer is no.

Smaller government fits with a belief in individual freedom and choice – still one of the basic divides in British politics.

I start from the presumption that government should not interfere and meddle where it is not needed – the belief that power, choice and responsibility should, wherever possible, be left with individuals and their families, with entrepreneurs and businesses.

I don't want my personal

choices made for me by the state. Nor do most people. Nor is it necessary. The British are better able to order their lives effectively than the most efficient and humane of governments. Trust the People" is an old Conservative battle cry. It must be central to our future policies.

We aim to regulate less of people's lives. We trust people to spend their money, or save it, or give it, and to do so sensibly. We don't believe most people are selfish or greedy. And we think they can be trusted to exercise those instincts themselves – not to have them exercised on the people's behalf by men in Whitehall who claim to know better.

So we aim to tax and spend an ever smaller share of what people earn. To reduce and, in due course, abolish capital taxation. I want to do that because it makes good economic sense. It ends a penalty on enterprise and investment; it will release capital and create jobs. And that is the right thing to do.

There is a moral case for low taxation if you genuinely want to see growing prosperity and more employment.

So we have much to do. We are only half way through our programme. But the direction in which the Government wants to go is towards more choice, more freedom, more autonomy, more accountability.



Locking horns: A costume by Alexander McQueen being prepared for the Designer of the Year awards at the Royal Albert Hall on Sunday

Photograph: Tony Buckingham

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# Fly away Peter, come in Paul... Britain's migratory birds flee the nest as global warming takes hold

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
Environment Correspondent

Man-made climate change is likely to wreak havoc with migratory birds around the world and slash the populations of several species, a report warns today.

Birds that rely on British coastal habitats are particularly in danger, the World Wide Fund for Nature says. Rising sea levels will cover huge tracts of mudflat and shore marshes which in winter provide them with a crucial feeding ground.

The report says that the gradual global warming which appears to be under way may be the reason why several species are nesting earlier in the year in Britain. They include species as diverse as the chaffinch, magpie, dipper and wren.

Furthermore, some birds whose British populations were at the northern limit of their range appear to be building up their numbers here as the climate becomes warmer. These include Cetti's warbler and two tropical and Mediterranean species which appear to be on the verge of establishing UK breeding populations, the little egret and the Eurasian spoonbill.

The report says that half-a-dozen species which breed in tundra-like habitats in the coldest parts of Britain may stop nesting here if the climate warms substantially. Those include the dotterel, ptarmigan and snow bunting, all mountain-top birds.

But the biggest impact of all could be on the millions of wildfowl and waders which fly south along western Europe's coastline from their Arctic and sub-Arctic nesting grounds towards warmer climes for the winter. Their route is known as the eastern Atlantic flyway, and Britain's estuaries provide crucial feeding grounds along the way.

The marine life in the mudflats provide some birds with a winter-long food supply, while for others they are crucial refuelling stops during migratory flights which are thousands of miles long.

"Shore birds such as the



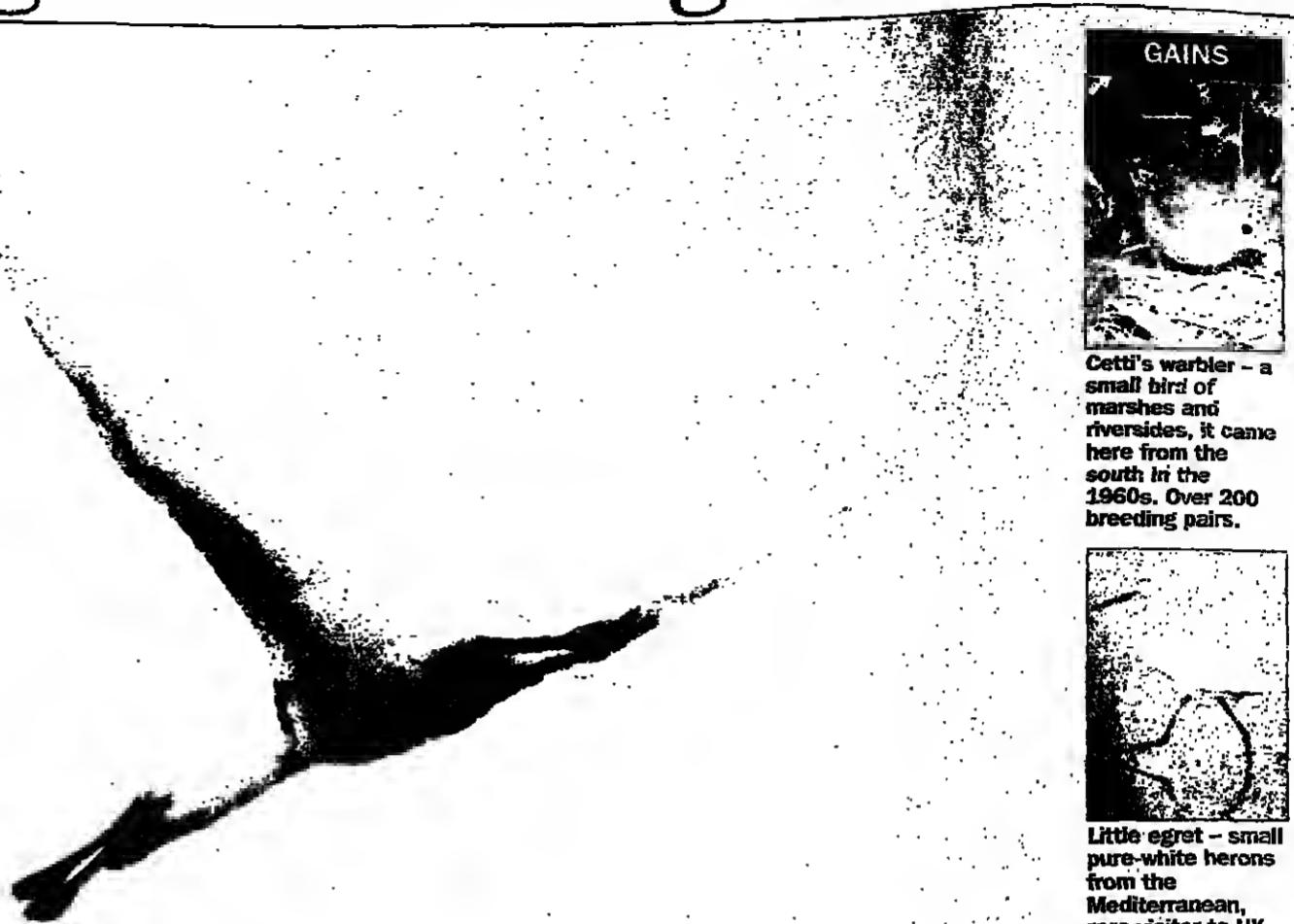
**LOSSES**  
Knot - a small wading bird which nests in the Canadian High Arctic and Greenland and winters in British estuaries.



Whimbrel - a long-billed wader which breeds in small numbers only in the extreme north of Scotland, and winters further south.

Ptarmigan - a grouse which lives on some of Scotland's highest mountain tops.

Snow bunting - nests around mountain peaks in Scotland, and spends the winter on the shoreline.



**GAINS**  
Cetti's warbler - a small bird of marshes and riversides, it came here from the south in the 1960s. Over 200 breeding pairs.



Little egret - small pure-white herons from the Mediterranean, rare visitor to UK until the 1960s. May soon start to breed here.

Put to flight: The Eurasian spoonbill, a large wading bird whose numbers are building up along Britain's eastern coastline. It may soon start to breed here, as it does already in Holland

Photograph: Ardea

sanderling, knot or dunlin are able to double their weight in fat after just a few days of frenzied feeding," the report says.

Apart from permanently covering the tidal mudflats with higher sea levels, global warming is projected to have another impact on the migratory birds.

Migrations are often tied to "resource flushes" - times when food is particularly abundant. But if climate change shifts the life-cycles of the animals they feed on the birds could find less food available when they arrive at stop-over points and breeding grounds.

The report points out that a sea-level rise of 1ft, which is projected for the end of the next century, will cover much of the mudflats. The Wash, probably the single most important shore-bird feeding ground in Europe, is likely to be one casualty.

The southern and eastern coasts of Britain are already sinking, irrespective of any rise in sea levels caused by global warming. Species assessed to be particularly at risk are the knot, grey and ringed plovers, bar-tailed godwit, shelduck and three species of goose - the barnacle, pink-footed and brent.

## Monopoly fears over government computer contract

STEVE BOGGAN

EDS, the computer company founded by United States presidential candidate, Ross Perot, undercut rival bids by half in order to win the latest in a string of government contracts worth £2bn.

According to today's *Computer Weekly* magazine, which has uncovered a number of anomalies in the awarding of government department contracts, EDS said it would charge only £25m to provide computing services to 250 county and crown courts in England and Wales, while its nearest rivals are understood to have bid £50m.

The company announced the deal this week but the difference in bids has resulted in some observers suggesting that EDS intends to use the contract as a way into future, more lucrative business. Under recommendations by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, all courts are expected to undergo radical changes in the field of information technology.

Others believe EDS, which now has no links with Mr Perot, is growing too big too fast. It already has contracts to provide IT services to the Inland Revenue, the Department of Social Security, the Child Support Agency, the Ministry of Defence and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. According to a National Audit Office report, it also bid substantially below rivals to secure the DVLA contract.



Ross Perot: founder of the computer firm EDS

Labour MP Alan Milburn, who has raised questions about the growth of EDS, said yesterday: "Clearly there is a danger of a new monopoly developing. The whole thrust of the Government's claims about market testing is to break down monopolies and not to make new ones."

If there are any suggestions that a company is getting its foot in the door at a low rate now

will earn a fee each time a summons is processed, with profits being directly related to the amount of "business" conducted by courts.

David Biondini, business manager at EDS, denied yesterday that the bid was a loss-leader, even though *Computer Weekly*'s sources said that rivals, including Siemens, had costed the work at about £50m.

"We have certainly not bought the business," he said.

"There is no guarantee in the contract that further work will follow, so it would be madness to gamble on it."

"We have simply been able to bid lower than our competitors because we worked very closely with the courts and developed a system that enabled us to make huge savings."

He added: "This isn't a case of comparing apples with apples. The Private Finance Initiative allows you to innovate, and that is what we have done."

The technology we have used and the way we have used it is the reason for our bid. I won't describe what it involves because we will want to use it again."

Asked about concerns over the number of contracts it held, another EDS spokesman said: "The important thing to remember is who owns the information we process - the government departments involved. There is a master-servant relationship and we are the servant of the departments who have contracted us to do a job."

simply to make money out of the taxpayer in the future, then I think that is a great cause for concern."

The contract, awarded by the Lord Chancellor's department under the Government's Private Finance Initiative, will result in all court records being computerised. Currently, only six county courts benefit from computer record systems. EDS

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Virtual reality headset designed to process data from satellites makes reading possible again



Dr Thompson reading a bedtime story to his daughter Naomi, four, with the help of LVES

Photograph: Keith Metheringham

## I'll tell you a story about how the blind can see...

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Editor

A registered blind man is reading books again, thanks to a piece of equipment designed by the United States space agency to process satellite images.

Dr Tom Thompson, 42, suffers from macular degeneration, an eye disease that leaves sufferers walking around in a fog. But now a virtual-reality headset for less than £4,000, developed by Nasa with specialists at Johns Hopkins

University in Baltimore, has rejuvenated his sight.

Macular degeneration is common in the elderly, but does not usually start to affect people's vision until they are past retirement age. The macula is the most sensitive part of

the retina, onto which the eye focuses the central part of any scene. The degeneration causes loss of detail in the central area, making reading or driving difficult or impossible. Peripheral vision remains, but it is not detailed enough for many tasks.

Dr Thompson's condition was first detected three years ago, and he had been unable to read for more than a year. But while in the US, visiting friends in Baltimore, he met an optician who told him about a piece of equipment called the Low Vision Enhancement System - or LVES, pronounced "Elvis" by its users.

"I had a go on the equipment and it was amazing. I could actually read a book. I talked it over with my wife and we decided it would be worth using our savings so I could read again," Dr Thompson, a former GP of Hutton Buscel, North Yorkshire, said.

The LVES system, which is available for sale or hire in the US, costs \$5,600 (£3,600). A number of companies in the US sell it, including Sight Systems of Olympia Fields, Illinois. There are fewer than 200 users of LVES in the US, and Dr Thompson is believed to be the only one in Britain.

LVES weighs about two pounds, and consists of three cameras - one for each eye and a zoom lens - in a head-

mounted system which covers the eyes, with two tiny screens in front of the eyes onto which pictures from the cameras are projected. The cameras can focus on objects at any distance down to two inches, and they can magnify by up to 25 times.

The LVES magnifies the centre of a scene and enhances its contrast, to compensate for the reduced effectiveness of the macula.

The processing required is carried out by a hand-held box, the technology of which was originally developed by Nasa to cope with data relayed from satellites.

But the scientists at Johns Hopkins decided that the same system, allied to a virtual reality set-up, could compensate for all sorts of visual defects, including extreme nearsightedness.

Another benefit of the system for Dr Thompson is that his children love seeing him using it. "Naomi and Joe think it's great fun because I look like something out of *Star Trek* when I'm wearing it," he said.

JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

Teaching methods are to be prescribed by the Government under proposals announced yesterday for a big shake-up of teacher training. A national curriculum for teacher training will specify which methods trainees should be taught, what knowledge they need of a particular subject and how they should control a class.

Those colleges and universities which fail to meet the requirements will lose accreditation for their courses and could also lose funding if they are marked down by inspectors.

New rules in English and maths will be in place for primary trainee teachers from next autumn. Later the curriculum will be extended to include primary science, and English, maths and science for trainee secondary teachers.

Ministers believe that too many schools are still using progressive teaching methods. The proposals aim to ensure that teachers are taught, for example, how to use whole-class teaching and phonics - decoding words through sounds - in the teaching of reading.

The Office for Standards in Education will decide which methods are the most effective.

Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, said she was struck by the findings of an Ofsted report which showed that 50 per cent of newly trained teachers said they felt ill-equipped by their training.

"Over the last few years we have set about overhauling teacher training but, despite this, it has become increasingly obvious to everyone that too many newly qualified teachers, through no fault of their own, lack the teaching skills they need," she said.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said that some teacher-training institu-



Gillian Shephard: "Teachers lack the skills they need"

tions did not pay enough attention to well-proven methods such as phonics. He said: "It is no good for colleges to rest content ... that students are exposed to some teaching, for example, of phonics." Teachers had to be convinced that such methods worked. "If we can demonstrate that children are learning to read more effectively through the use of these methods, teachers will recognise that their previous antipathy to the use of phonics was misplaced."

The Teacher Training Agency, a quango, is being asked to draw up tighter rules on training and to ensure that colleges develop more courses in specialist subjects. Inspectors have complained that primary teachers do not have enough knowledge of the subjects they teach.

Nigel Gates, of the Association of University and College Lecturers, said: "I am dismayed ... Most of us are [already] doing what is in the document, implicitly rather than explicitly."

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The Tories have failed the teacher-training test. They have taken 17 years to come up with serious proposals on what is taught in teacher-training colleges."

### Reading: What new teachers should know

Examples of the "essential methods of teaching and assessing reading":

- systematic use of phonics;
- how to improve vocabulary and spelling so pupils progress from reading words to books;
- how to teach whole classes, groups and individuals;
- structure, vocabulary, grammar and punctuation of standard English. Pupils also need to know the alphabet, recognise letters, recognise how letters, groups of letters and sounds match; know how sounds may change according to the position of letters; and, use grammar to understand text.

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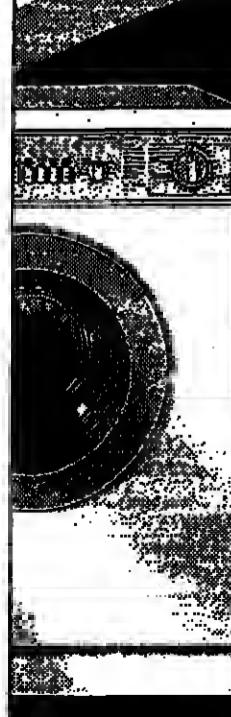
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# Black into white makes theatre history

DAVID LISTER

Lionel Bart took numerous liberties with Charles Dickens when he put *Oliver* on stage in 1960. Now Sir Cameron Mackintosh, producer of the latest revival, has taken a liberty with both Bart and Dickens — and written a footnote in theatrical history.

Sir Cameron's newest change has given the role of Nancy to Sonia Swaby, who is black. It is certainly the first time a black actress has played the role in the west end or on film. And suddenly the possibilities for multi-racial casting look limitless.

Increasingly in recent years black actors and actresses have been cast in Shakespeare, particularly at the Royal Shakespeare Company whose current production of *Julius Caesar* has Huggie Quashire as a black Mark Antony. But in mainstream theatre examples have been extremely rare.

Now Sir Cameron, who personally presided over the Nancy casting, has changed that.

Quite where theatre and film directors go from here is intriguing. If a black actress can play Nancy, one of the best-known characters in English literature, and a character who was undoubtedly white, then why



Crossover: Multi-racial acting cast, left to right: Laurence Olivier plays Othello, Sonia Swaby takes on Nancy in Oliver and Adrian Lester as Rosalind in As You Like It

should a black actress not play Jane Austen's Emma or Thackeray's Becky Sharp or Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre or Emily Bronte's Cathy? Where would a white Heathcliff and a black Cathy leave Emily Bronte's hints

of passion aroused by Heathcliff's dark complexion?

For with the new possibilities come old concerns. Black actors and actresses are increasingly appearing on the British stage,

but more often than not in new work or minor roles in the great literary works. It is too confusing for audiences, directors have claimed, to have black actors playing parts we know

were historically or by centuries of literary convention,

white. We know that Henry the Fifth was not black, just as we know that Blanche Dubois was not black — and how the texture

of *A Streetcar Named Desire* would change if she were played

by a black actress. But neither

was Bill Sikes's girlfriend black. So is every role up for grabs by performers of all colours?

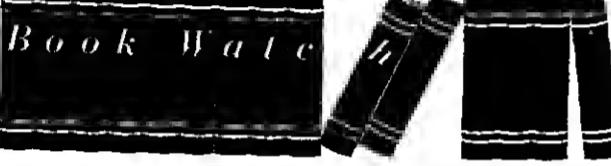
The question has perplexed

even the most progressive and thoughtful directors. John Caird, a former RSC associate

*West Side Story*. With Sir Cameron's bold move, privately described by Equity officials as "courageous", that sort of worry may be a thing of the past. Audiences at Ms Swaby's first few performances have delighted in her portrayal. British audiences are perhaps becoming colour blind.

Equity's spokesman Martin Brown described Sir Cameron's casting of Sonia Swaby as "marvellous and very forward-looking". He added: "We have a very clear policy on integrated casting. Performers should be cast on their talent alone, not on ethnic origin, so we absolutely applaud the casting of a black Nancy. I can't think of something like this happening in the West End before."

The new thinking in multi-racial casting begs other questions. While Sir Cameron may have proved a liberalising factor in black playing white, it still seems unlikely that we will see a white actor following in the footsteps of Olivier, Schofield and Gammon and playing *Othello* at a national company. The artistic directors of both the RSC and the National Theatre remain unwilling to risk offending sensibilities by casting a white actor in the role.



Here's a novel way to help the unemployed; or more literally a poetic way to help the unemployed. Sinclair-Stevenson's anthology "Poem for the Day — 366 Poems, Old & New, Worth Learning by Heart" is sponsoring an unusual means of raising poetry awareness for The Poetry Marathon on Sunday 13 October in London's Little Venice. £10 is being offered to unemployed people who can recite a poem of 14 lines or more that they have learned by heart. There is also an offer of £5 each to the first 50 people who recite a poem. And to think there was a time, long ago, when we used to memorise the stuff for pleasure.

I don't know how much of an advance his publishers have given the estimable Bill Bryson for his next travel book recording his hike along the 2,157 mile Appalachian Trail. But judging from his first dispatch (to the Waterstone's Magazine), it sounds as if he needs danger money.

"The woods were full of perils," he writes, "rattlesnakes and copperheads, bobcats, wolves, black bears, wild boar, even the occasional deranged moose. I learned of a man who had stepped from his tent for a midnight pee and was mistakenly, but savagely, attacked by a hoot owl — a hoot owl for Christ's sake — and of three people crushed in their tents by falling trees or limbs..."

"Then there were all the diseases I could get — schistosomiasis, glandia, lyme disease. Lyme disease results from the bite of a common deer tick smaller than a pinhead. If undetected it can lie dormant in the human

DAVID LISTER

## DAILY POEM

### On Watching a Cold Woman Wade into a Cold Sea

By Anne Stevenson

The way that wintry woman Walked into the sea Was as if, in adultery, She strode to her leman.

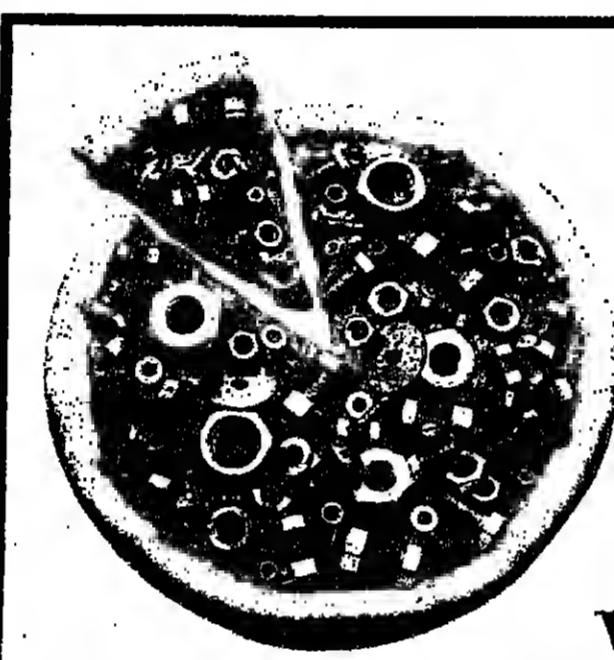
Something in the way she Shrugged off her daughters, Moping by the sea's hem As if they were human

But she of the pedigree And breed of Poseidon, Slicing through the breakers With her gold plated knees, Twisting op her hair With a Medusan gesture:

Something in the augury She took from her nature Made women look at women Over stiff cups of tea. And husbands in their season Sign subverbly to see her.

Oh go daily with your children! Or your dogs, naked sir! The venom of the ocean Is as kindness to hers.

Anne Stevenson was born of American parents in Cambridge in 1933 and at the age of 21 returned to this country to settle permanently. OUP publish her *Collected Poems* this week, the result of over 40 years of poetry and 10 collections, with the choice made by the author herself of the poems she wishes to preserve. Her poetry benefits from an open window on two cultures and two literary heritages. Stevenson's controversial biography of Sylvia Plath, a fellow American and fellow poet, was published in 1989.



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French travails: Maastricht rules and tax cuts dominate finances, while ruling coalition frets over its electoral prospects

## Single currency calls the budget tune for Chirac

Paris — The French government nailed its colours to the mast of a single European currency yesterday, publishing a draft budget for 1997 that envisages a reduction in the domestic deficit to the 3 cent of GDP required to meet the Maastricht criteria, writes Mary Dejevsky. It also offers a start to a promised five-year programme of tax cuts.

Approving the draft at yesterday's cabinet meeting, President Jacques Chirac said the budget was "compatible with France's European commitments and in line with the objective of harmonising French and German policies". He said it was the first time a real effort had been made to halt the rise in public spending.

The projected deficit for 1997 is 283.7bn francs, not of total spending of F1,552.9bn. The expenditure figure is the same as that planned for the current year, meaning that there is to be a small reduction in real terms, allowing for inflation. The deficit is to be reduced partly by cutting public spending through ministerial budgets, modest

public-sector job cuts and a delegation of some spending to regions. A big contribution to the cause of cutting the deficit, however, will be made by a debt piece of accounting. The draft budget confirms that F37.5bn, the entire assets of France Télécom's pension fund, will be transferred to the exchequer, in a move that may well be contested by Brussels.

An even riskier aspect is the projected reduction in the indebtedness of the social-security fund, to a total of F30bn, from more than F50bn. One of the social-security reforms introduced by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, last year was to bring the system into the overall state budget. It had been separately administered, with the government advancing credit to cover a deficit over which it had little control. Whether this change will enable the government to curb health spending by as much as it hopes is widely questioned.

Cash from France Télécom and various economies have allowed Mr Juppé to begin the tax cuts he promised in an af-



Odd man out: Alain Juppé, whose government is so unpopular that President Chirac is considering forming an alliance with the Prime Minister's political enemies

Leading article, page 15

## Gaullists pin hopes on Juppé rejects

MARY DEJEVSKY

Paris

The unpopularity of the French government is such that President Jacques Chirac is considering the formation of a new centre-right alliance as the only chance of retaining a parliamentary majority after the 1998 elections. Such an alliance would effectively bypass the structures of the Gaullist RPR party and its coalition partner, the UDF, both of which are closely associated with the government of Alain Juppé.

The idea, which has echoes of Georges Pompidou's tactics in the approach to the 1973 parliamentary elections, has been discussed at meetings of leading politicians and broached indirectly in recent press commentaries.

The reasoning is that a grouping headed personally by Mr Chirac could embrace popular figures such as the former prime minister Edouard Balladur, the former interior minister Charles Pasqua, and the former economy minister Alain Madelin, to help from the campaign.

All three win consistently high points in opinion polls, but are cold-shouldered by the hierarchies of the RPR and UDF and have no place in Mr Juppé's government.

A fourth "dissenter" whose support is being solicited is Philippe Séguin, the anti-Maastricht maverick who remains hugely popular despite being politically neutralised as the chairman of parliament.

None of the four has made any secret of their political differences with Mr Juppé, which are as personal as they are political.

A recent breakfast meeting between Mr Juppé and Mr Pasqua lasted 15 minutes, barely long enough, one observer said, for them to down an espresso. A lunch meeting between Mr Juppé and Mr Balladur lasted longer, but ended with a smiling Mr Juppé saying that there was broad agreement and a stony-faced Mr Balladur leaving in silence.

Both Mr Balladur and Mr Pasqua were left out of Mr Juppé's government after they lined up against Mr Chirac in last year's presidential campaign. Mr Madelin was sacked a year ago for advocating just the sort of tax-cutting policies that are

now proposed. Until now, the influence of the "dissidents" has been limited by their inability to agree a common platform against Mr Juppé. They have spent much time sniping at the failure of government policies, especially to reduce unemployment. And although they have recently started to meet in public — Mr Séguin lunched last week with Mr Balladur and Mr Pasqua shared a platform at the weekend with Mr Madelin — policy differences remain.

What the four have most in common, aside from their dislike of Mr Juppé, is loyalty to Mr Chirac, and it is this that could be mobilised in the cause of retrieving the parliamentary elections for the centre-right.

Although legislative elections are more than a year away — they are due in spring 1998 — the RPR/UDF coalition is already fearful on two counts. It is worried that the 80-per-cent parliamentary majority it won in 1993 could be overturned by the left.

It also fears that a strong showing by the extreme-right National Front could leave the front with the balance of votes in a hung parliament.

Both these dangers were illustrated last weekend, when the Minister for Francophonie Affairs, Margi Sudre, was soundly beaten in a by-election, and the National Front performed strongly in two local elections.

A "presidential" alliance would enable the centre-right to enter the elections on the back of Mr Chirac's personal popularity, harness popular "dissidents" to the campaign, and allow Mr Juppé to remain in office until the elections to carry out the "necessary, but disliked" reforms.

The disadvantage for Mr Chirac is that it would draw him back into a party political fray that he has eschewed since taking office, regarding it as the President's job to represent "all the French". For Mr Juppé, the disadvantage is even greater, which is why he is, very discreetly, opposing the idea. Not only would it leave him to take responsibility for government failures, but it would inevitably dent his authority as leader of the Gaullist party, the reserve power base he had planned for his post-prime ministerial existence.

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مكتبة من الأصل

# Germans to join new Bosnia peace force

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Defence Correspondent

Britain will play a pivotal role in the new multinational force which will replace IFOR, the peace implementation force in Bosnia, after 20 December, the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Portillo, said in Sarajevo yesterday.

Volker Ruhe, his German counterpart, said Germany would do the same, reaffirming Bonn's commitment last week to put troops into Bosnia - their first front-line role abroad in half a century - and his belief that an international force should stay in Bosnia for a further year.

The defence ministers arrived at international monitors continued to supervise the counting of votes cast in Saturday's elections. Bosnia's Muslim President, Alija Izetbegovic, has been confirmed as the first Chairman of the three-member Bosnian presidency.

The Serb nationalist candidate, Momiclo Krajisnik, came second and the Croat, Kresimir Zubak, third. The results of the other ballots, for the all-Bosnia assembly, the presidency and assembly of the Serb half of Bosnia, the assembly of the Muslim-Croat Federation, and the federation's 10 cantons, will be announced later in the week.

The new multinational force is expected to be called Fo-For - Follow-on-Force, according to Nato sources. Britain will provide 240 personnel in the new Fo-For headquarters in Sarajevo, including the new deputy commander, a lieutenant-general who will be responsible for



Victory road: A jubilant Bosnian celebrates the success of President Alija Izetbegovic in the country's first post-war elections

Photograph: Reuter

land operations. The increased German role in the Nato-based force demanded by Mr Ruhe is more controversial, while senior United States sources also indicated the US would provide a significant component - coo-

tradicating the American government's refusal to discuss the matter. "My guess is it will be done at sixteen," a senior US official said last week - a reference to the full 16 Nato members.

"It is clear there will be a new

mandate and Germany will show solidarity and play a meaningful part," Mr Ruhe said in Sarajevo at the start of a joint visit to British and German troops in Bosnia and Croatia. Germany has 4,000 troops

in Croatia, but few in Bosnia. "I think it should be limited to one year, but this must be discussed at the political level. This time we want to be stationed in Bosnia itself," Mr Ruhe said.

Last week, he said an inter-

national military force should stay in Bosnia until at least October 1997, to ensure the right conditions for reconstruction, freedom of movement, and re-building confidence and fostering democratic attitudes.

Following the postponement of the municipal elections, a big international military presence is likely to be required until these are held in November or next spring.

Mr Portillo said the "de-

ployment of the new headquarters carried no significance for decisions on post-IFOR arrangements", which he considered would be premature at this stage. But the continued ban on any discussion of arrangements after 20 December appears to be increasingly absurd deference to US sensitivities before the 5 November presidential elections. It is well known that the major Nato powers have well-advanced plans for a follow-on force.

There are 58,000 IFOR troops

**British soldier dies**  
A British soldier died yesterday after being wounded on 7 September, a report from the Croatian part of Sarajevo, the Ministry of Defence said. Private Simon jeans, 25, of the Royal Logistic Corps, was one of six British soldiers attacked by about 30 Croatian youths armed with baseball bats. The MoD said the matter was being investigated.

in Bosnia. The plan for a follow-on force envisages three brigades of about 7,000 each, but capitalises on the flexibility of military organisations.

■ Bonn (Reuter) - The German government yesterday stood by its plan to start sending home 320,000 Bosnian refugees next month despite criticism from the United Nations refugee agency and humanitarian groups. "We are of the opinion that the repatriation can begin on 1 October," an interior ministry spokesman said.

## De Klerk knew of secret hit squads, says assassin

MARY BRAID  
Johannesburg

Eugene de Kock, the self-confessed apartheid state assassin, yesterday told the Pretoria Supreme Court that FW de Klerk, despite his denials, knew covert state military hit squads were operating while he was president.

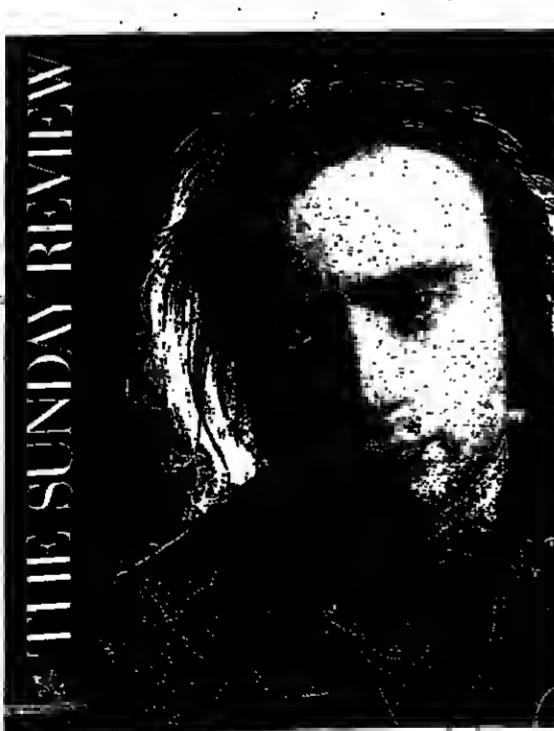
De Kock, former commander of the infamous secret Vlakplaas security police unit, said the former president had given the order to attack the Transkei, an apartheid "independent homeland" in 1993, and Vlakplaas had carried it out. The incident, in which five children died, almost derailed the peace process.

"De Klerk cannot say he did not know that covert organisations existed," said De Kock, who is pleading in mitigation of sentence after being found guilty of 89 charges, including six murders. "Who did he think was going to carry out that attack?"

De Kock's allegations come a day after he implicated former president PW Botha and former ministers Pik Botha, Magnus Malan and Adriaan Vlok, and an array of generals and high ranking police and defence force officers. Last month Mr de Klerk told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that Nationalist Party governments had never authorised murders or assassinations.

De Kock, the most senior policeman to be convicted in South Africa, had promised that if he went down, others would go with him. He aims to show he was only part of an elaborate, secret, state-backed operation authorised from the highest echelons of government. But so far he has offered no hard evidence which would nail generals or former ministers.

De Kock said: "If it was not for the National Party being in power we would have been arrested long ago and if they were still in power I would not be in court today."



Young at heart... He's one of Britain's richest men, but Phil Collins still claims to be 'an ordinary bloke'. In an exceptionally frank interview, he talks to Cole Moreton about money, sex and fame

A rum business: family feuds are shaking the House of Bacardi to its foundations. John Carlin tells a tale of proud Cubans riding for a fall

Beyond The Piano: Lee Marshall reports from Italy on what Jane Campion did next

Sun, sea and ice: researchers are flocking south for Antarctica's brief summer. Fred Pearce rejoices in science's favourite continent

Plus: John Wells at the Fashion Café; and a used car dealer reveals the tricks of the trade

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# State steps in to shore up Sydney Olympics

ROBERT MILLIKEN  
Sydney

Four years before the millennium Olympic Games are due to start in Sydney, the Australian organising body has been shaken by a political upheaval designed to shift control of the games from private enterprise to government.

Barely six months after his appointment as president of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, John Iliffe, one of Australia's leading businessmen, has resigned.

His replacement at the head of the body charged with staging what is expected to be the biggest Olympics so far is Michael Knight, Minister for the Olympics in the New South Wales state Labour government.

The two men are worlds apart in their approach to planning one of the most intricate international events Australia has hosted. Mr Iliffe is chairman of Woolworths, a retailing giant in Australia, and holds senior positions with other companies. Mr Knight is a wheeling dealing politician from Labour Party's right wing.

The sudden unseating of Mr Iliffe appears to have come about after Australian Olympic officials were dismayed by the logistical disasters involving transport, communications, security and training of volunteers at this year's Atlanta Olympics. The Sydney Olympics will be held over a fortnight from 15 September to 1 October 2000.

The Atlanta Olympics were the first, and possibly the last, games to be funded and organised entirely by the private sector, with no involvement from city, state or national government. Mr Iliffe is the second president of the Sydney organising committee since its inception three years ago to come from the business world;

## significant shorts

### Eleven North Koreans found shot in the South

after their submarine landed in the neighbouring state. The men were possibly killed by one of their number who also used the gun on himself, a South Korean defence ministry spokesman said. A twelfth was captured after a massive search while another eight or nine were still at large, the spokesman said. Seoul described the North Koreans as infiltrators, and said the incident was a breach of an armistice agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. *Richard Lloyd Parry - Tokyo*

### An ex-French minister is to be tried for war crimes

an appeals court ordered yesterday. Maurice Papon, 86, is accused of sending Jews from wartime France to their deaths in Nazi extermination camps. Mr Papon, who was Paris police chief in the 1960s and the budget minister in the 1970s, allegedly ordered the deportation of 1,690 Jews, including 223 children, in 1942-44 when he was secretary-general of Bordeaux. *Reuter - Bordeaux*

### Rebels in Burundi say 10,000 have been killed

by the army since its coup on 25 July and they called on regional African states to maintain their embargo. The army said soldiers found the bodies of the Roman Catholic Archbishop Joachim Ruhama and a nun eight days after they were killed in an ambush in central Burundi. *Reuter - Bujumbura*



Strong arm of the law: A Russian militiaman beats away a young fan trying to get a closer look at the rock star Michael Jackson in Moscow yesterday. Photograph: Reuter

DAVID BARBER  
Wellington

New Zealand, scene of the developed world's most radical economic reforms over the last 12 years, is about to undergo an equally dramatic political

reform. The country steps into the political unknown in just under four weeks with the first general election under proportional representation, after ditching the Westminster first-past-the-post system of the past 140 years.

Most voters have little idea how the system will work and even less clue as to the shape of the new government after the poll on 12 October. The only certainty is that the strangulation on power the conservative National and Labour Parties have enjoyed for the last 58 years is over.

The Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system used in Germany, adapted for use here after a referendum in 1992, was designed to give minor parties more seats in parliament, so a

coalition is inevitable - and no party is likely ever again to be able to push through unpopular radical reforms resembling those of the last decade. There is no doubt New Zealand First and the NZ Alliance will increase the four and two seats they held respectively in the old 99-member House of Representatives. Either could hold the balance of power in the expanded 120-seat parliament.

The electorate's dilemma is that the party leaders are all refusing to spell out who they might work with until the election is over. The confusion is compounded by the fact that voters will have two votes - one for a constituency candidate and the other for a party. The party vote alone will decide the make-up of parliament, a fact that two-thirds of voters do not understand, according to a recent poll, which indicated that people were likely to vote on traditional lines for the candidate from their favoured party and cast their other ballot for another party as a second choice.

Old party allegiances mean nothing in the new political environment. New parties have been formed and more than a dozen MPs have changed sides over the last couple of years in preparation for MMP. Helen Clark, leader of the Labour Party, which is challenged by NZ First for second place in the polls, rules out a coalition with National. Mr Bolger says that he will talk to anyone.

# Panic in New Zealand as first PR poll looms

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## international

## Former lover casts Eastwood as villain in \$2m fraud suit

TIM CORNWELL  
Los Angeles

In *The First Wives Club*, which opened in American theatres this week, three comedians on the plus side of 50 – Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, and Bette Midler – delight in roles as scorned women past their prime who take their cheating husbands to the cleaners.

A different version of this tale is playing in a courtroom in Burbank, California. Sondra Locke, long-time co-star and main squeeze to Clint Eastwood, has cast herself as a typical victim of the alleged Hollywood practice of giving a cold shoulder to actresses of a certain age.

At 48, Locke is suing Eastwood, her partner of 13 years, for \$2m (£1.3m). She claims the 66-year-old actor, in stark contrast to his usual role of silent knight with a six-gun, persuaded Warner Brothers to offer her a fake directing deal, in a scheme to detach himself from the middle-aged Locke with the minimum financial pain.

"Women in Hollywood are marketable for a very short period of time," she told the jury. She is suing Eastwood for

fraud, interfering with her ability to earn a living, and breaching his financial duty.

The couple, by all accounts, met and fell in love in 1975. In the western classic *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, Locke played the wifish type favoured by cowboys, and went on to star in five other Eastwood films. But in 1989, there was a bitter public break-up.

As Eastwood's chosen co-star, Locke had enjoyed what she called a perfect life with a man she called "my Prince Charming". The couple shared houses in Carmel, where Eastwood served as mayor, and in the celebrity retreat of Sun Valley, Idaho. In 1986, under his wing, she got her chance at directing at Warner – making *Rutboy*, the tale of an alien rodent.

Eastwood went on to father a child by Frances Fisher, with whom he acted in *Unforgiven*, the 1992 film in which he starred and for which he won two Oscars, for Best Picture and Best Director. Eastwood's new wife, a 30-year-old TV anchorwoman, is expecting her first child. Other recent film successes include *In the Line of Fire*. Locke, by contrast, has sunk

rapidly into obscurity. Eastwood insisted on the witness stand this week that he was doing her a favour when he persuaded Warner to give her a directing "development" deal worth \$1.5m. Only after four years, and after 30 projects which she proposed were rejected, she says, did she discover Eastwood had financed the arrangement with his profits from *Unforgiven*. It was a humiliating sham, she maintains, which persuaded her to settle her earlier palimony suit just as she was recovering from a double mastectomy.

Eastwood admits he covered Warner's costs. But he says he made a bona fide effort to persuade Warner of Locke's talents, citing her "noble efforts" with *Rutboy*. Locke, by contrast, says he knew the deal would pigeonhole her as an inconvenient "ex" and ruin her career into a dead end. Eastwood, departing on the witness stand from his usual laconic self, insisted he acted like a gentleman. "I never intended to defraud anyone," he said. "It just doesn't make any sense ... it sounds like something out of a dime novel."

The trial continues.



Make my day: A reporter confronts Clint Eastwood as he leaves the Burbank Superior Court yesterday

Photograph: Hal Garb

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## Boutros-Ghali caves in over UN job cuts

DAVID USBORNE  
New York

Throwing doubt on claims that he is making headway in bringing serious management reform into the corridors of the UN, the Secretary-General, Boutros-Ghali, has been forced to back away from what was to have been a first effort to cut dead wood from the organisation's staff.

The affair, which has provoked reactions ranging from fury to resigned eye-rolling in many Western missions, centres on controversial plans recently made public to send redundancy letters to only 37 members of the UN civil service at the New York headquarters.

Although Mr Boutros-Ghali has already overseen a cut of almost 10 per cent in his payroll, it has so far been achieved by wastage and voluntary

departure. Such is the jobs-for-life culture of the UN that the very notion of sacking an official seemed outlandish.

Faced with a rebellion from developing countries belonging to the Group of 77, the Secretary-General agreed this week to delay the lay-offs. Led by Iran, Cuba and Algeria, the Group pushed an emergency resolution through a UN committee late on Monday demanding that the General Assembly, rather than Mr Boutros-Ghali, should have the last word on any sackings.

The change of heart by Mr Boutros-Ghali, who evidently wanted to avoid a fight over the issue, was relayed to the General Assembly on Tuesday by the Under-Secretary-General for administration, Joseph Connor. It is a humiliating defeat for Mr Connor, a former chief executive of the account-

ing firm Price Waterhouse, who has been leading the battle to transform the Secretariat from a bloated bureaucracy to something resembling an efficient corporation. Only on Monday, he unveiled the first results of an "Efficiency Board" created last year to drag the UN into the modern age. Among its achievements has been the inauguration of a UN web site on the World Wide Web.

"It is a total own goal and we believe the effect on the organisation for the time being is very bad," one senior European diplomat lamented. "The Secretary General has to be in charge of his own house."

By referring to the Group of 77, Mr Boutros-Ghali may also have played into the hands of the United States, which has vowed to oppose his election to a second term as Secretary-General, largely on the grounds

that he has dragged his feet on reform. The issue is certain to be raised by President Clinton, who will address the General Assembly and meet with Mr Boutros-Ghali on Tuesday.

Speaking just days ago to the *Independent*, Mr Boutros-Ghali asserted that he had no choice but to carry out staff cuts, in part because of budget reductions imposed upon him by the General Assembly itself.

In truth, the debacle over the

sacking of the 37 – whose num-

ber included four US nationals

as well as many officials from

developing countries – is in-

dicative less of his leadership

than of the nature of the beast

he and Mr Connor are trying to

tame. It vividly demonstrates

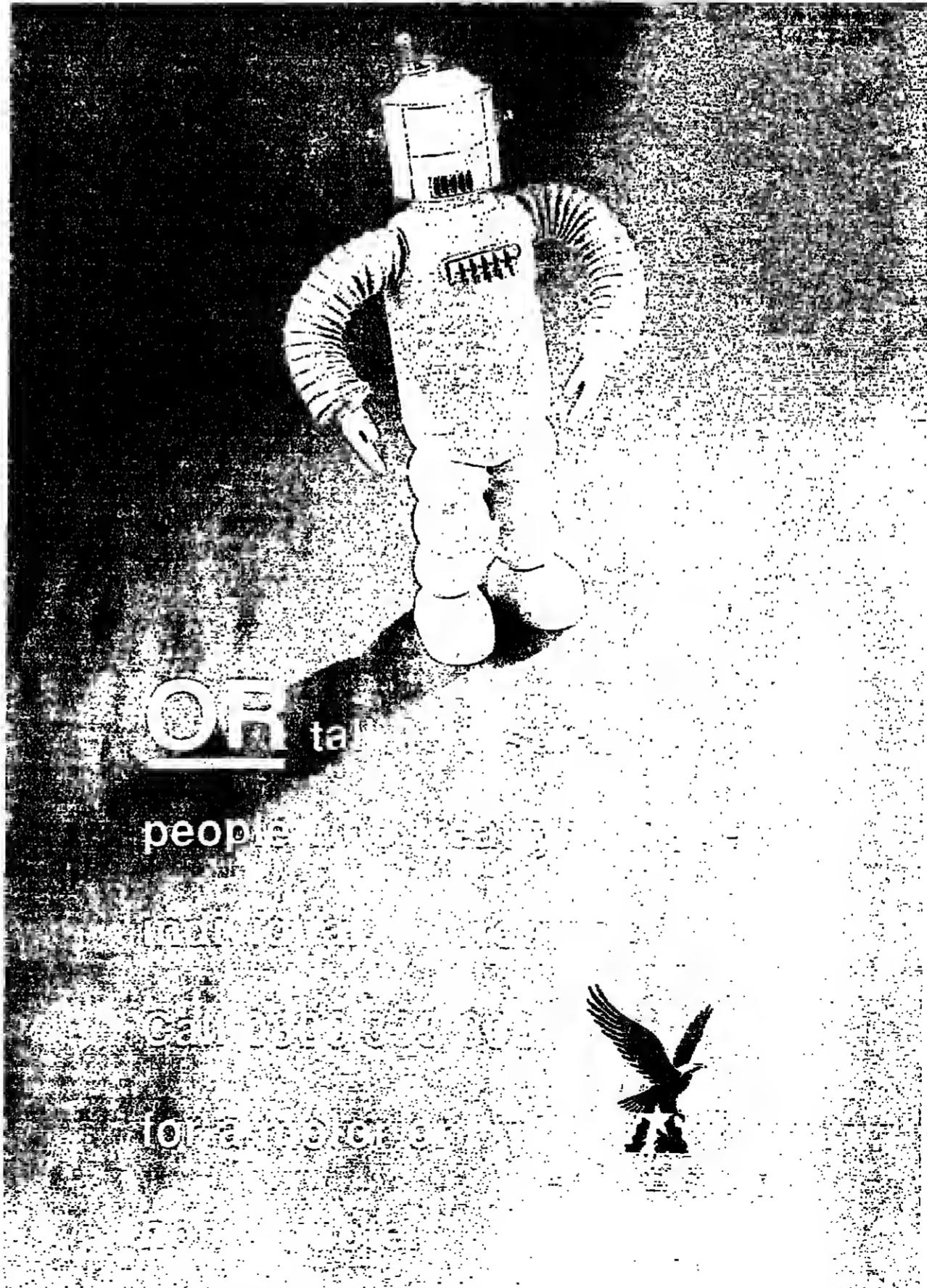
that while the US and most

European governments are

ready to embrace radical reform

in the UN, many of the develop-

ing countries simply are not.

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# Rifkind finally spots the EMU bulldozer

There was much sense in Malcolm Rifkind's speech in Zurich yesterday. The determination of a small group of countries to press ahead with European economic and monetary union (EMU) is, conceivably, a threat to Britain's real interests in Europe and, is, conceivably, a threat to the unity of the EU.

But what took him so long? It has been obvious for months now that, whatever the domestic political and social costs, France, Germany and a few others are bent on creating the "euro" by the end of the century. It is as if the Government - Kenneth Clarke apart - has been sleep-walking. (The Americans call it "denial".) In his last heavyweight pronouncement on the subject 10 months ago, Mr Rifkind tried to talk EMU into its grave. Then, he briefed that it was recognised throughout Europe that the project would be delayed or would collapse. We disagreed. Mr Rifkind now admits that it hasn't and it won't.

On the surface there is a world of difference between the Rifkind speech and the letter we publish today from six Tory grandees appealing to the Government not to burn its EMU boats. But, looked at another way, both statements share the same root anxieties: that EMU will happen; that Britain will not be part of it; and that nothing in Europe will ever be the same again.

To that extent, the Foreign Secre-

tary's speech was not a Eurosceptic speech. There is nothing the Eurosceptics would like better than that the EU should be split into a federalising inner core and an outer circle of "free-trading" states.

The Rifkind speech recognises that this may be an illusion: that, unless carefully handled, radical differences in degrees of political and economic integration between EU member states could shatter the European institutions and, conceivably, the European single market.

Unfortunately, Mr Rifkind has little to say about what, at this late stage, we can do about it. There is something familiar about all this. It follows the traditional parabola of our relations with Europe in the last 50 years. First, we say "that is silly and it can never work"; then, after a long pause, we say "how dare you do it without us?"

But Paris and Bonn would be wrong to dismiss the Foreign Secretary's comments as another piece of British bomb-throwing. At this late stage in its life, this Government's actions on Europe take two forms. There are those actions that are addressed exclusively to the Eurosceptic gallery of backbenchers and newspapers (such as Douglas Hogg's famous attempt to reopen the Florence beef deal). And there are those actions that are meant to address and influence real politics beyond the Eurostar terminal. The

Rifkind speech was in the second category. It was, in a sense, a cry for help; an announcement that, after the nonsense of the beef war, in whatever time is left before the next election, the Government wants to talk seriously about the future of Europe.

History is repeating itself in a broader sense. The Franco-German determination to push on with EMU is rooted in nostalgia for the 1950s and 1960s when the European train forged ahead with only six carriages and without those miserable Brits pulling the communication cord the whole time.

The economic arguments for EMU

may be shaky but the political will behind the project is immense. Paris and Bonn, for their different reasons, are determined that British scepticism and the expected influx of new member states should not drown all progress towards European political integration.

They want a hard core of member states, built around EMU, to keep the dream of political union alive into the new millennium. Concern about the activities of this Franco-German bulldozer is not confined to Britain. Witness the Spanish government's statement yesterday that it was unthinkable that Spain should be

left out of the single currency (and yet the present criteria make it unthinkable that Spain should be included). Italy, a founding EU member, is equally furious at being ordered into the European slow lane when it is clear from yesterday's French budget that Paris is itself resorting to creative accountancy to meet the EMU guidelines.

Our own view is one of genuine scepticism about the single currency; there are very serious unresolved democratic issues at stake, which its supporters blithely ignore. But, as Mr Rifkind's speech implicitly recognises, doubts about EMU are now largely beside the point. EMU, harking some unforeseen calamity, is going to happen. The urgent questions are: who will join and how will the EU manage relations between members of the single currency and non-members?

It is inconceivable that a future Conservative government would join EMU; it is highly unlikely that a future Labour government would join in the first wave, given the state of public opinion on the subject. None the less, Britain, as Mr Rifkind suggests, has a vital interest in shaping the terms on which the single currency is created. An EU divided between the Ins (running one monetary policy and, in effect, one economic policy) and the Outs (running disparate economic policies) is something unprecedented and hazardous, just as the Foreign Secretary warns.

How will the various EU institutions deal with it? What safeguards can be taken to prevent the single market from being shattered?

The Government is right to raise these issues; other member governments ought to take the warning seriously. But the Government will not be taken seriously if it simultaneously continues to play to the Eurosceptic gallery by starting a second, unnecessary beef war.

## What on Earth's the matter?

Does matter matter? Apparently the cold dark stuff scientists thought filled space may not be so cold and dark after all. Research showing that the first galaxies are older than we thought shoots holes in the cold dark matter theory - possibly black holes.

It sounds baffling and arcane. But take heed. NASA astronomer George Smoot castled in with his bestseller *Wrinkles in Time*. Three books of pictures from the Hubble telescope have just been published. It sounds like gobbledegook, but it's big business. The colour and temperature of the content of the cosmos could yet have an impact on our Christmas shopping lists.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our national interest lies in EU destiny

Sir: Fifty years ago today in Zurich, Winston Churchill set out a positive, internationalist vision of Europe's future - a British Conservative vision - which had a powerful impact in bringing together a shattered continent. Destructive nationalism was to be replaced by a new politics of co-operation, guided by a confident, victorious Britain.

That message holds as good today as it did half a century ago. We believe that active British involvement in a strong European Union offers our country its surest guarantee of continued influence and prosperity in the world. From Washington to Tokyo, Britain's political voice counts because we are central to, not detached from, the interests of our continent. Economically, our aspiration to be the enterprise centre of Europe depends on the existence of an integrated single market in which we play a full and active part.

Britain's future lies as a committed member of an interdependent Europe, as a country which sees the European Union as an opportunity not a threat. We have to find the confidence, as a nation and as a people, to make a success of our European destiny. The British instinct is to lead, not walk away. Our greatest patriots have never been little Englanders.

The tragedy of Churchill's Zurich speech was that, for too long, it did not inform Britain's post-war policy. We sought to distance ourselves from Europe, rather than decisively to shape it, as we could and should have done. Our caution cost us dear in the design of the new Europe. We eventually joined the European Community 15 years too late. We have been working to catch up ever since.

That is a mistake we must not make again. For us now to rule out British membership of a single currency would be to betray our national interest. To countenance withdrawal from the European Union would be to court disaster. To commit ourselves, by contrast, to a positive role in the leadership of Europe is the most fitting tribute we can pay to Churchill's Zurich vision.

SIR LEON BRITTON  
PETER CARRINGTON  
(Lord Carrington)  
Sir EDWARD HEATH  
GEOFFREY HOWE  
(Lord Howe of Aberavon)  
DOUGLAS HURD  
WILLIAM WHITELAW  
(Viscount Whitelaw)  
London SW1

### Let's be truculent about Howarth

Sir: Politics, according to Polly Toynbee ("Defectors have only a walk-on part", 16 September) is now so value-free that Labour constituents should jump to acquire the services of Alan Howarth. This is an argument for a political aristocracy - an aristocracy being defined as a group who expect to exercise power however they may act.

We are moving towards an Americanised political system - less ideology on the left, fewer people voting, more volatility, leaders personalised, parties run top-down, conferences replaced by media-event rallies. Plus, of course,



a new political aristocracy, overruling the aristocracy of wealth, relying on rich backers, and able to pay a dividend in patronage.

Slipping Mr Howarth into a good chum of "Blair's people" would be a clear example of the new patronage. If Polly Toynbee wants us to have a real democracy, she should be cheering on the truculence of those red-necked "lesser" people who oppose it.

C A BANKS  
London SE6

that there were very many in the Labour Party who did not want Mr Howarth imposed as a candidate, and nor did they want to see the creation of a centre party where it frankly didn't matter where you came from or what you believed.

MARK SEDDON  
Editor  
Tribune  
London WC1

### Special needs of pupils ignored

Sir: In her article "Defectors have only a walk-on part", Polly Toynbee attributes some quotes about the former Conservative MP Alan Howarth to me, which I did not make. I know this, because when I returned her call last week I took the precaution of recording it.

Ms Toynbee claims that *Tribune* has "gleefully hounded" Alan Howarth since he defected to the Labour Party, and that I "malevolently" said that there was a suspicion "that some old-timer" (her words not mine) would retire just before the election in order to make way for him.

In fact *Tribune* has not bounded Mr Howarth. Rather, it has simply reported the facts, as reported to us and as newspapers are supposed to do. Indeed, we sent Ms Toynbee a copy of all the news pieces so that she could be in no doubt.

As for my supposed malevolence, nothing could be further from the truth. In response to Ms Toynbee's question "What do you have against Mr Howarth?", I said that I had nothing personal against him, and that there were many people who understood that his decision to defect had been a brave one. But I also pointed out

need eight hours a week at least to deliver the equality of opportunity to which they are entitled under the 1993 Education Act.

Many authorities are unwilling to combine tuition at home with partial school attendance, which these children badly need to assist re-integration into normal life and often to help their medical recovery.

One has to overcome a similar reluctance to provide the help to the 16-19 age group which the law seems to intend. One must ask why, if some allegedly badly behaved primary pupils merit instant expenditure at a rate of £14,000 per annum?

I have now, I hope, solved my daughter's education needs, but then I am a teacher very familiar with special needs legislation, and I have been well supported. Many other parents of exam candidates with chronic ill health cannot say the same, and they should contact their MP and the relevant pressure group, to establish precedents in law.

Dr CAROL BLYTH  
Wendover  
Buckinghamshire

### Blues train

Sir: Having read your Business comment on our post-privatisation railway system (17 September) it occurred to me that were Inter-City Cross Country and the Great Western Railway to merge, we might end up with an outfit called Country & Western.

MICHAEL LLOYD  
St Albans, Hertfordshire

### English rights in Quebec

Sir: According to your leading article of 12 September, "The fears of English-speaking Quebecers for their rights under an independent French-speaking government have proved a significant obstacle to Quebec's secession from Canada."

English-speaking Quebecers effectively already enjoy the same rights as the majority French-speaking citizens of Quebec: a fully funded school system from nursery through university in their own language, their own social services, the right to a trial and government services in English. Montreal, where English-speaking Quebecers are largely concentrated, has four universities, two of which are English-speaking; six television broadcasting centres, two of which are English-speaking; four daily newspapers, one of which is in English.

In short, minority rights in Quebec are something of which we are justifiably proud. They are also the envy of all French-speaking minorities in English-speaking Canada.

If and when Quebec does withdraw from the Canadian federation to establish a new partnership with the rest of Canada which would maintain the present economic union, it will be because a majority of Quebecers have opted to do so through a referendum. Quebec would remain at the forefront of civilised societies, preserving the rights

enjoyed by its English-speaking community.

RICHARD GUAY

Gouvernement du Québec

Délégation Générale

London SW1

### Bosses can fund minimum wage

Sir: If management in companies are so keen to ensure Britain's economic competitiveness, why not let higher and middle managers take a little drop in their weekly wage of, say, £15 and £10 respectively. This could then be used to cover the cost of a minimum £4 per hour to low-paid employees. There would be no loss of employment, our exports would remain constant, and the underpaid could gain some self-respect. Social justice would be seen to be done and firms' economic effectiveness would not suffer.

BRENDAN MACMAHON

London E12

### Be polite to the Prime Minister

Sir: I have just received a personal letter about our country from the Prime Minister ("Let the good times roll, says Major", 9 September).

May I suggest that everyone who receives the honour of such a letter should reply, as I have. It is, after all, only polite to answer letters, and it provides an opportunity to express one's views on the contents. I am sure Mr Major will be overwhelmed by the response.

SARA CLARKE  
High Peak,  
Derbyshire

### Name your own country

Sir: Gerald Gilbert (TV preview, 14 September) cannot be right that Cecil Rhodes was only the second person, after Simon Bolivar, to have a country named after him.

A moment's reflection gave me Amerigo Vespucci (USA), Columbus (Colombia), Captain Cook (Cook Islands), as well as a number of religious figures of greater or lesser historical existence: Jacob renamed Israel, St Christopher (St Kitts), St Lucia. In addition, El Salvador (the Saviour) is named after Jesus.

STEPHEN R GOULD  
London SW3

## essay

You have never heard of Tony Dye, yet he is among the 100 most powerful figures in Britain. Why? Because as an investment manager he is always ready to gamble billions against City trends.

Paul Vallely looks at a man going for broke



## Man who bets £10bn on a crash

**H**e is an unassuming bald man with glasses in his late forties. Of medium build, and dressed in a conventional dark suit, he is the kind of chap you would walk past in the street without noticing. But Tony Dye is a flamboyant character in one respect at least. For the past 18 months he has been steadily gambling £10bn of the nation's pension money on the assumption that the stock markets in London and New York are about to come crashing around our ears. His plan, as the rest of us pick up the killing. And if he fails...?

Failure is not a possibility which Mr Dye contemplates. He has not had to in the past. He is confident in his own instincts, which have made him one of the most successful investors in the City of London.

Most of us have never heard of him. The newspapers have hardly written about him, though three years ago one

survey included him in a list of Britain's 100 most powerful individuals. It was an interesting exercise, Tony Dye, who is head of investment at the pension fund managers PDFM, formerly known as Phillips & Drew Fund Management, was ranked No 59.

That put him below such prominent figures as Lord Hanover, Rupert Murdoch, Sir Martin Jacobson, Lord Weinstein, Eddie George, Evelyn de Rothschild and other scions of the financial, banking and industrial sectors. But it ranked him above the President of the Board of Trade, the Cabinet Secretary, the chief executive of Lloyds, the director general of the BBC, the chairman of British Airways, British Gas, KFC and Marks & Spencer. He even overshadowed individuals like Sir James Goldsmith, Richard Branson and Lord Hollick.

What Tony Dye does sounds mundane enough. His job is to identify and buy stocks that is, therefore, been out-performed by his competitors. PDFM is, accord-

ing to City tables, under-performing by more than 6 per cent. Mr Dye has sat and watched his firm slip down the league tables unperturbed.

The reason for this wilful under-investment is that Tony Dye is convinced that the City of London and Wall Street are about to crash. When they get things wrong so do most of their peers. They blame the market and thus hang on to their jobs.

Tony Dye is different. He has sold the usual shares and is hanging on to as much as 15 per cent of his fund's money in cash and bonds. That's a total of £10bn in ready money. Let's say it in words: ten thousand million pounds. This is reported as being the highest level of liquidity at a major pension fund group for more than 20 years when most of the industry maintains a mere 6 per cent cash level. In a booming share market he has, therefore, been out-performed by his

clients' money — and that of thousands of pensioners — riding on the outcome. Mr Dye, who is reported to earn more than £1m a year in his total remuneration package, has invested substantial sums of his own money on his bunches. As the result the former grammar school boy from Lancashire is a self-made millionaire. If the market — particularly on Wall Street — does not crash, he stands to lose significant sums.

"In the States he is holding a short position," said one business associate. "He has put more of his personal money at risk than f would," said a personal friend.

The culture of PDFM is distinctive and he's a linchpin of that," said one former employee. "It comes at things from a different angle to the received wisdom of the day. So it does things which are not fashionable. It is always out on a bit of a limb." In the past the strategy has proved a success. PDFM came out of the Japanese market very early at the end of the Eighties. It looked like a poor decision for a while but ultimately it was vindicated. "Japan went up and down like a rollercoaster," said one PDFM partner, "and although

they missed the last bit of the final up-curve they missed the whole of the downturn. They held their nerve even though it got difficult. And they held it in 1991 when they went through something similar. But they've had a period of under-performance like this."

There is more than his clients' money — and that of thousands of pensioners — riding on the outcome. Mr Dye, who is reported to earn more than £1m a year in his total remuneration package, has invested substantial sums of his own money on his bunches. As the result the former grammar school boy from Lancashire is a self-made millionaire. If the market — particularly on Wall Street — does not crash, he stands to lose significant sums.

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it's a manic depressive when it comes to business scenarios," said another former colleague. "He's big on doomsdays. He believes we won't see anything as overvalued as the present market for another 30 or 40 years. He thinks the present investment fashions are crazy."

The lessons of the market are that for those individuals whose judgements are keen enough, following such hunches can be highly successful, even if it is uncharming for those around them. Nerves of steel like Tony Dye's have been what characterised the four greatest investors of recent times.

Perhaps the most outstanding of these is Warren Buffett of Omaha, Nebraska, who started in 1956 with \$100 and is today one of the world's richest men, with a personal fortune of more than \$8.5bn. He did it by careful, long-term investment in simple, mass-market companies, a strategy that has outperformed the Dow Jones industrial average in every year since 1956.

Warren Buffett is the most sensational example: he has outperformed the US index every year since 1956. His strategy is similar to that of Tony

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## They don't make columns like this any more



Miles Kington

**T**en phrases commonly used by gardeners showing you round their gardens

1. "You should have seen the garden two weeks ago."
2. "No, it doesn't look much, but it's actually a very rare species."
3. "Normally it's a blaze of colour."
4. "You really should see the garden in about two weeks' time."
5. "It's a *redundiculus*, of course."
6. "... and then the slugs got it."

7. "You really should have seen the garden this morning."

8. "It's from a cutting."

9. "They're normally very difficult to grow."

10. "You should really come back and see the garden this time next year."

**Ten phrases commonly used by people who stop you in the street.**

1. "Excuse me, please, but I am from Spain and am looking for Wycliffe Gardens, please?"

2. "Do you have a moment to answer a few questions for a survey?"

3. "Hey, mind out for that dog sh... Oh, too late..."

4. "Hello, I'm Esther Rantzen and I'm going to ask you to make a fool of yourself."

5. "Excuse me, sir, but I am going to have to ask you to come to the manager's office of the shop you have just left to make sure you have receipts for all the objects you may or may not have purchased there."

6. "Sorry, was that your foot?"

7. "Excuse me, but baven't seen you on the telly somewhere?"

8. "Yes, it is true that we have got some in the window

but they are just for display purposes."

9. "No, you cannot go in the window and get them."

10. "I shall send for the police if you go in the window and get them."

**Ten phrases commonly used by dog owners.**

1. "He's very friendly."

2. "He's very good with children."

3. "He's usually very friendly."

4. "He's just a big puppy, really."

5. "He won't hurt you."

6. "He seems to like you!"

7. "He's never done that before."

8. "You must have done something to upset him."

9. "Just keep very, very still."

10. "He's never eaten anyone before."

**Ten phrases commonly used by arms dealers.**

1. "If we didn't sell them arms, someone else would."

2. "It creates lots of jobs in Britain."

3. "If we didn't sell them arms, someone else would."

4. "It creates lots of jobs in Britain."

5. "If we didn't sell them arms, someone else would."

6. "We are in your area next week for a very short while."

7. "We could come round tomorrow."

8. "We could come round now."

9. "I'm actually standing at your front door, talking to you on a mobile."

10. "I would have rung the doorbell, but I had to ring you to say your front door bell isn't working, and as we are in the area offering quality door bell repairs to selected customers..."

الراصد

diary



This is a bad year for fans of Cupid. The Romantic Novelists Association may become 'the sweet FA'

john  
walsh

Word reaches me that all is not well with Paul McCartney and his biographer, Barry Miles. Despite the fact that Miles's long-awaited life of the Great Moptop has been announced in the *Secker* catalogue as published next month, it's been delayed until the spring. This is tragic news for all Wings fans, cultural analysts and those avid for the secret of Linda's vegetarian recipes. But what has caused the delay? Some dispute about who composed the Liverpool Oratorio? Some revelation about a romance with Yoko Ono? The truth is dismally simple: despite many urgings from author and publisher, McCartney simply has not read the bloody thing and they can't proceed until he does. Given that the book is currently about twice the size of the new Virginia Woolf biography, and that Mr McCartney is too busy to read books all that often, it's not terribly surprising. But how galling for Mr Miles, to find that the one person in the universe who should be guaranteed to take a lively interest in his *magnum opus* apparently just cannot be arsed. Worst of all is the irony of the book's sub-title: it appears to be the answer to the question "When are you going to read it, Paul?". It's *Many Years From Now*.

I spent an extraordinary Sunday evening celebrating the work of a deceased nihilist in a defunct theatre. Bloomsbury were launching *Damned to Fame*, James Knowison's vast biography of Samuel Beckett, with a party and some readings from the master's work by a quartet of distinguished actors. Rather than consign the academic guests to a Soho wine bar, they hit on the Royal Court as the ideal site. (It was, theatre buffs will recall, the scene of several Beckettian premieres, notably *Happy Days* with Billie Whitelaw. Now it's being decommissioned for two years, £22m will be spent on gutting it and turning a 400-seat proscenium theatre into - well, a 400-seat proscenium theatre). The Court is, for the moment, in effect closed down. This means we were sitting in a drama palace that in effect doesn't exist, celebrating a man whose work exists in a temporal hinterland that takes in both birth and death...

Heady stuff - but then the whole evening was a little weird. A chap with Beckett's face (from the Modernist Writers Lookalike Agency?) stood around importantly and was revealed to be Sam's nephew, Edward. Hearing that the great artist Ariadna was in the room, I hissed at a friend, "Would you know Avigdor Ariadna if you saw him?" at the exact second the great man walked by behind me, his eyes flickering suspiciously. The veteran French actor Jean Martin declaimed Beckett's last work, *Comment Dire (What is the Word?)* with such ferocious, bulging rage that we feared for his septuagenarian heart (as did his sister sitting in the second row).

The most charming moment of the evening, however, wasn't in the theatre at all. It was a few miles away in St Martin's Lane, where several party guests had been diverted, by accident, to the Duke of York's Theatre

(that's where Royal Court productions will be held in future). Outside the gaudy billboards advertising the *Ayckbourn-Lloyd-Webber* By Jeeves, a knot of 20-odd ascetic Beckett fans gathered sheepishly and looked at their feet. They might have consulted one another as to whether some mistake had been made; but they were too shy. *Godot* fans do not, as a rule, have much to say to devotees of Bertie Wooster.

John Major isn't the only one to harass female MPs with his gross and flirtatious behaviour. While still reeling from Emma Nicholson's news of the PM's impertinent inquiries about the way she sneezed, the political world was reminded on Tuesday of a legendary encounter with another swordsman of the boudoir. At the launch of Brian Brivati's biography of Hugh Gaitskell at that notoriously louche venue, the Institute of Historical Research, you couldn't move for senior politicos (Jenkins, Benn, Hattersley) and heavyweight political commentators (Peter Hennessy, Donald Watt, Ben Pimlott) all making speeches from the floor and reminiscing about the late Labour Party chief. Then the book's publisher, Richard Cohen, made a speech in which he brought up the subject of sex in political memoirs. He told how he'd commissioned Barbara Castle to write her book *Fighting All the Way*, in which she reveals that she once went to Aneurin Bevin's flat and that Bevin had "made a pass" at her. This pre-stagitional euphemism tantalised Cohen: "Barbara," he'd said, "I don't think you can say this about the great hero of the working classes, without expanding a little". A week later, an emendation arrived. Okay, directed Dame Barbara, you can change that to "made a passionate pass". Perhaps someone should have a similarly encouraging word with Ms Nicholson.

This is turning into a seriously crap year for fans of Cupid, moonlight, long-stemmed roses and men whose eyes are mischievous and mocking. First John Boon, co-inventor of the Mills & Boon industry, dies. Now, I hear, the Romantic Novelists Association is firing of the abuse that is directed at its members by cynics, and it is going to change the name. "People look at you as if you're a romantic writer," says the RNA's Elizabeth Buchan, "even though it's a fine tradition that's grown out of Jane Austen, the Brontes and Hardy." But what are they going to do to call themselves now? "We wanted to be just The Fiction Association, but I realised the Press would call us 'the sweet FA'. So now we're waiting for suggestions from members." While they're waiting, can you help? Tell me what you think the romantic writers of the 1990s should collectively be called, and the sender of the best suggestion will get a free copy of Maeve Binchy's new novel. It will be hand-delivered by a smouldering biker in early middle age, perennially misunderstood by his rich but stuffy family and seemingly incapable of finding love. Until now. that is...

**T**he Groucho still has its admirers, the waiting-list for the Garrick stretches into the next century, White's, Brooks, Pratts and the Arts stumble from year to year. But clubland is not what it was. Members and staff go through the motions. But the adrenalin funk of power and influence has departed.

It has fetched up in deepest Hammersmith, at a starkly modern restaurant carved out of an old warehouse overlooking the Thames, called the River Café, which is owned and run by Richard (now Lord) Rogers, (right) the architect who designed the Lloyd's Building and the Pompidou Centre, and his American wife, Ruth.

Relishing the fashionable discomfort, the rich and famous troop into the steel, glass and stripped-wood ambience of the restaurant where they can pay £50 per head for the *cucina rustica*, the elaborately simple Italian peasant cooking in which the place specialises. Lucian Freud is a regular. David Bowie, Harold Pinter, Steve Martin and the noted Garrick Club reject Jeremy Paxman, often seen savouring the organic vegetables and the best extra virgin olive oil, and indulging the amiable bumblings of the floppy-haired boys with big chins who wait on table.

But the River Café is more than just another trendy restaurant. It is on the way to becoming London's most important salon and talking shop and hang-out for power-brokers as well. It could become the city's most significant modern club.

Its profile was given a sharp upward thrust in April when Tony Blair, at a public meeting on London's future, came out as a fan of modern architecture. With Britain's modernist icons, Rogers and Sir Norman Foster, on either side, Blair declared that London "needs a galvanising vision of its future. People should be able to look back at the architectural achievements of our time." When the meeting was over, it was a toss-up whether Tony and Cherie would unwind in Sir Norman's Battersea penthouse or a little further west at Roger and Ruthie's. Roger and Ruthie won the day.

What fresh-faced young moderniser could turn such an invitation down? It's not just the glittering guest list, the Yenitos and

# Catholicism made us what we are



Bryan  
Appleyard

Why do people get so upset about Catholics? "I hate Catholics" is quite commonly heard in otherwise civilised circles. And, whenever a Catholic story is in the headlines, everybody dives in to trash the Parisis or to tell them how to run their church. Now, for example, everybody feels free to demand that priestly celibacy should be abandoned.

This is a profoundly irrational state of affairs - for why should non-Catholics care? Nobody has to be a Catholic so those who are must be freely acquiescing in the rules of the church. Of course, there will be slippage in this acquiescence - notably on contraception - but, again, this is of no logical concern, other than as a matter of interest, to non-Catholics. The old attempt to blame anti-contraception Catholics for the global population crisis and therefore accuse them of damaging the interests of non-Catholics, has long been laid to rest by the exposure of the statistical absurdity of the idea.

This all becomes even more irrational if we try to imagine substituting Judaism or Islam in all these com-

mentaries and stories about Catholicism. Impossible. Nobody would dare dictate religious practice to Jews or Muslims. And yet, routinely, liberal atheists, to whom the whole thing must be no more than a lacy, incense-laden freak show, tell Catholics what to do. It is not even as if Roman Catholicism was our national church. In fact, most people, if asked, regard it as a faintly exotic Mediterranean import like polenta or tapas.

And, finally to raise the irrationality of the Catholic-bashers to the level of incurable dementia, the Roman Catholic Church is obviously the most staggeringly impressive institution ever created by man or, if you prefer, God. It has been responsible for the greatest works of the human imagination and, as transcendent think-tank, has been responsible for the longest continuous procession of philosophical genius the world has ever known. Contemporary intellectual pygmies should think carefully before they start making even bigger fools of themselves by sniping at this extraordinary scholarly edifice. Criticise Catholicism by all means, but, trust me, you will have to work at it.

So why does Catholicism occupy so

much space? My theory about this is inspired by a remark made by Stephen Dedalus in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Asked if he was abandoning Catholicism to become a Protestant, he replies: "I said that I had lost the faith, but not that I had lost self-respect. What kind of liberation would that be to forsake an absurdity which is logical and coherent and to embrace one which is illogical and incoherent?"

Now that it has abandoned its ill-advised claims about the physical universe, Catholicism makes only one fundamental claim: that, 2,000 years ago, God became man and died for our sins. All else, from the teaching on contraception to the hierarchy and the bureaucracy, follows. Other national organisations from the same starting point are possible. But none other has been so carefully constructed by such

intellectuals. Catholicism does not, like the Church of England, go in for wet, liberal compromises or gimmicks to put bums on seats. It does not, in short, shrink from the obvious truth that, if the Son of God did die for our sins, then we have no choice but to be dominated and determined by that fact.

It is this clear rationality that focuses attention on the Catholics for it makes Catholicism the absolute opposite of contemporary liberalism. Inevitably, therefore, when Catholics - like Archbishop Roderick Wright - appear to hesitate - as when Cardinal Hume's remarks about celibacy were wholly misunderstood by most of the press - then the critics and amateur canon lawyers dive in, convinced that the edifice of certainty is cracking.

The truth is that Catholicism is not a problem for the contemporary liberal, it's THE problem. It was the primary force in the development of Western civilisation, including liberalism, and yet, now, it is in direct conflict with most aspects of that civilisation. So, in attacking its teachings and practices, we attack something in ourselves and, as any psychiatrist will tell you, self-hatred is the most violent and destructive hatred of all.

## Decoding Major's hidden agenda



Donald  
Macintyre  
A fifth term  
of Tory  
government  
could unveil  
a different  
prime  
minister

chance to impose his own agenda on the party.

You can see only the barest vestiges of what he might like to be in yesterday's "Moral Government" Spectator lecture. The headline thought, of course, is that Tony Blair has no monopoly on goodness and that there is a moral case against big government and in favour of low taxes. Never mind that taxes have gone up under the Tories or that Tony Blair has grave doubts about big government, too. Deconstructed, the speech points to rather more about the Tories election strategy and the shape of a possible fifth term than we might have expected at this stage of the cycle. Let's use a little imagination to spell out a few of the subtexts:

"We should 'look further' at a lower target once we have brought spending below 40 per cent of national income."

I'm interested, perhaps a little more so than Kenneth Clarke, in the idea that we could reduce state spending further than the very tough target of 40 per cent. But I'm certainly not going to commit myself to a figure as some of the far right do. Tony Blair hints at wholesale welfare reform but actually social security is grow-

ing significantly slower than the economy as a whole and we don't wholly accept there's a crisis. My main objective, deep in my upbringing, is low inflation. I certainly believe in cutting taxes but not at the expense of letting borrowing run out of control. And I don't - repeat don't - accept the hard right's agenda of privatising social insurance any more than doing so to the NHS.

"Government should not interfere and meddle."

This is familiar territory, of course: we don't want the state running people's lives or interfering in business. But there's also a libertarian argument on which my friend Norman Blackwell is very persuasive. For example, believe it or not, I think we actually agree with some of the civil liberty lobby's complaints about Jack Straw's draconian regulation of personal behaviour, noisy neighbours and so on. We don't want a busybody society.

"Giving all in society the chance to take more control of their lives including those in Labour strongholds."

You'll be hearing quite a lot more about this. One of my rhetorical themes is going to be that the Conservatives want to

help all those who are prepared to help themselves by being willing to work hard. We are very interested in developing the current Workfare pilots and running a nationwide scheme in the fifth term. This means we'll be presenting our selves as offering hope to those in the inner cities - who, frankly, it looks as if Tony Blair is abandoning in his rush for votes of Middle England. At least, that's what some of his left-wingers complain he's doing. We like Jack Kemp's attempts to take Republicanism into the inner cities.

"Every child the choice of a funded education."

It is going to come in a lot more forms than at present. Frankly, much as I love Gillian Shephard, I think I'll have to move her in favour of someone such as Michael Forsyth or William Hague. I really do want a lot of grammar schools. Also, the Government's new accounting system will allow the private sector to provide new schools that will receive state funding for every pupil. Privately owned, publicly funded. And lots of choice. What could be better? I also like the East Harlem pattern

(shades of Jack Kemp again) where teachers can set up and run their own academies within existing state schools, teaching sport or drama and so on.

"A private company can provide a public service."

Who says we can't do more privatising? I agree with Michael Heseltine that we should sell off the Royal Mail. There are Cabinet opponents, so it won't necessarily be in the manifesto. We might not put the London Underground in the manifesto either - but provided BR privatisation works, you can be sure we will privatise the Tube. And we might well sell off Channel 4, too.

Major's chances of winning with this or any other agenda are still dauntingly slim. But last night's lecture was the first shot in a campaign by the consistently most under-rated operator in post-war British politics. The irony is that if he did pull it off, this would almost certainly mean the end of the British new right. There will be endless debate about whether this distinctively Majorish blend amounts to "caring conservatism", as he claimed last night, but Gingrichism it certainly ain't.

OUR SERIES ON THE PEOPLE JOCKEYING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE LATE NINETIES



THE NEW ESTABLISHMENT  
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### The River Set

Richard Rogers's  
waterside café is  
the hangout of the  
hip and powerful  
By Peter Popham

Serolas and Jagger and Geldof, which give it a special appeal. It's the presence of Rogers himself, for whose architectural office the restaurant functions as staff canteen (they get a discount). This intensely political figure, a grinning, lumbering, rock-faced dyslexic, 18 going on 65 in appearance, who dresses like an early Sixties jazz fan (red socks with everything),

has, by his vigorous, relentless campaigning, made the governance of London and the revival of the Thames into burning political issues.

Without necessarily willing it, Lord and Lady Rogers (as their friends will be expressly forbidden to describe them) have reinvented the London club for the late Nineties. The charm of the clubs of St James's is a tissue of ambiguities: grandeur and shabbiness, dignity and intimacy, strictly observed table manners but noisy food. Members go there to swank it up, but part of the treat is that once inside you can behave as you would at home, or worse. Stump in an armchair with the paper. Get soggy drunk without exciting comment. Toss your watch to the maus on the door and tell him to wind it, there's a good chap.

River Café plays similar games with expectation and propriety. It's notoriously expensive but disarmingly laid-back. The food has been praised to the skies, but you can never be sure what you're going to get, because, as Ruth Rogers said recently, "We change the menu twice a day by looking in the fridge and seeing what's there." Richard Rogers is a passionate enemy of the motor car, but it's almost impossible to get there any other way. When you arrive, there's nowhere to park - but the hairy guy in the Dracula cloak at the door will park it for you, which gives you the illusion you've been transported to Los Angeles, car capital of the world.

The edge the River Café has on any other such gathering place is that it is animated by ideas, electric with Rogers's prowling, bovine presence as he moves from table to table, pouncing on the rich and influential. In the *New Yorker* in July, Adam Gopnik described the café's dominant notion as the "century-old William Morris-to-Reyner Banham sensibility, which insists that faith in common sense, clean lines, English river air and imported Mediterranean folk culture will make England young again."

This may seem a rarefied proposition for a party reared on the dripping sandwiches of Labourism. But it's intoxicating, it's hip and the new establishment is knocking it back.

Tomorrow: media types

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# business 19

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## PDFM defends 'dash-for-cash' strategy

NIC CIRCIU

PDFM, the pension fund manager, yesterday went on the offensive to counter mounting concern among pension fund clients over its decision to put £7bn of their money into cash, in anticipation of a stock market collapse.

The group said it had been vindicated on previous occasions when it had gone out on a limb. The decision to hold a smaller proportion of its funds in equities than many rivals was based on PDFM's view that both the US and UK stock markets would fall sharply.

Paul Yates, marketing director

at PDFM, part of the Swiss banking giant UBS, said: "We have no intention of changing things. The markets are on the verge of a 30- to 40-year type of event. This is our philosophy and when we adopt a philosophy we have to stand with it."

He admitted that a consequence of this doomsday view had been the performance of pension funds managed by PDFM had suffered in recent months.

Other fund managers said PDFM's investment strategy was out of line with the rest. One said that for the company's position to deliver returns similar to its rivals, stock markets

in the US and UK must drop by between 20 and 30 per cent.

WM Company, the Edinburgh funds analyst, said many of the big UK fund management groups had built up their cash significantly in the first half of this year, but only by about one percentage point to 6 per cent of their assets as views of the stock market have turned more negative.

The general trend of the investment management industry has been to increase liquidity," said a spokesman.

Several fund managers admitted taking an increasingly bearish view of the US market recently, confirming that they

were gradually increasing their cash levels in 6 or 7 per cent of assets, compared to 4 or 5 per cent a few months ago.

One manager, who would not be named, said: "You can't help feeling sorry for PDFM. In 1994, when bond yields rose and values fell, PDFM got its asset allocation right and had good cash balances. The problem is they then took the position they hold today and have painted themselves into a corner as a result."

PDFM's defence of its position came as it was confirmed that the company, which has £50bn of UK occupational pension scheme funds under its wing, has been holding between 12.5 and 15 per cent of that amount in cash since early 1995, depending on the scheme. A further £3bn, about 6.5 per cent of assets, is held in government bonds.

However, PDFM said in a statement: "We have lower equity holdings and are higher in cash because equity markets are overvalued."

The company pointed out that it had taken similarly bearish positions before the October 1987 stock market crash, ahead of which its equity holdings were reduced to 72 per cent, compared with an industry average of 78 per cent.

In late 1989, when the Nikkei shares index reached an all-time high of 39,000 points, PDFM had disposed of all its Japanese equities. The index fell shortly after to a low of 14,000 before partially recovering to about 21,000 points today.

Mike Denham, investment director at Prudential Portfolio Managers, echoed PDFM's views on the US. He said: "In the past 18 months we have been running a fully invested position, although we have been increasingly concerned with the US equity market."

Mr Denham said Prudential was about 3 per cent underweight in the US, and looking

more to Europe for equity growth, although it remained reasonably confident about the UK. While the proportion of assets held in cash had risen to 6.7 per cent, for some pension funds this might be nearer 8 or 9 per cent, he added.

Richard Harvey, finance director at Norwich Union, said the insurer currently held barely 1 per cent of its assets in cash, although the company was worried about US equity prices.

Nathan Parfrey, investment director at Standard Life, which holds £47bn under management, said: "We are fully invested, with our cash at around 5 per cent in the last two to three

years. We still believe it remains right to stay reasonably well invested and do not see that changing in the next few months or so."

David Rough, group investment director at Legal & General, said the company's cash position had varied over the summer. It went underweight in UK stocks when the FTSE 100 hit 3,850, before going overweight again when the market reached 3,650. L&G is now underweight again.

"The best the market will go in the next couple of months will be sideways," Mr Rough added.

Essay, page 16  
 Comment, page 21

## Staff may strike as BA cuts 5,000 jobs

CHRIS GODSMARK and BARRIE CLEMENT

Unions representing British Airways staff last night threatened to hold strike ballots after the company revealed plans to cut 5,000 jobs in an attempt to slash costs by £1bn in three years.

BA refused to rule out compulsory redundancies to achieve the job losses, but pledged to recruit an extra 5,000 staff in other areas and to maintain the total workforce at around its current level of 49,000.

In a briefing to 350 senior managers, Bob Ayling, chief executive, attempted to dampen speculation of an imminent move towards a "virtual corporation", where "most functions would be contracted out to different firms with varying pay rates and working conditions. But he warned that failure to achieve the cuts would lead to the outsourcing of several key activities.

The competition is getting better and more efficient. Our customers expect more, but our cost of providing a seat has risen faster than the price customers pay in a highly competitive market place," Mr Ayling said.

The plan involves finding 5,000 staff willing to take voluntary redundancy from BA over the next 18 months, beginning in November. Most of

those affected would be at Heathrow and Gatwick, where the company admitted it may have to resort to compulsory job cuts. A similar number of staff with customer service and language skills would be taken on.

Mr Ayling said he did not expect "wholesale job losses". He told managers: "Measures will be put in place to ensure that we treat our employees in the best possible way. Jobs will also be created and jobs secured."

Candidates for drastic efficiency savings included checking in functions and baggage handling, which would be carried out at what BA describes as "external market prices". If the desired cuts were not achieved, and if the measures proposed by management teams failed to cut BA's cost base, these functions would be sub-contracted.

In addition BA's engineering division, which employs 10,000 staff engaged in aircraft overhaul and servicing work, could be partly sold off. A company source suggested BA would not necessarily need to maintain a majority stake in the operation. Earlier this year the airline said it had no plans to hive off the engineering division.

BA also said it planned to double the size of its business from routes franchised to other airlines. The carrier earns £50m from franchised routes, often to former BA destinations.

As unions met with management last night, officials were raising the possibility of industrial action. It is understood that George Ryde, senior negotiator for the aviation industry at the Transport and General Workers' Union, has received pledges of support from other European unions. Union representatives at other airlines on the continent have told Mr Ryde that they will refuse to handle BA flights if its employees walk out.

Workers' leaders at BA believe, however, that management may "throw money at the problem" and that voluntary redundancy terms will be sufficient to secure the necessary job losses. It is also likely that some

other unions will be less willing to take industrial action.

BA's workforce has grown from 39,500 worldwide at the time of privatisation in 1987 to 55,000 today, of which 49,000 are employed in the UK.

On firm ground: Bob Ayling said BA would not become a 'virtual corporation'

## Morgan Grenfell sacks fund manager Young

JILL TREANOR  
 Banking Correspondent



Peter Young: Dismissed for gross misconduct

Peter Young, the fund manager at the centre of the Morgan Grenfell Asset Management scandal, has been sacked from his £200,000-a-year job amid mounting speculation that the Serious Fraud Office is close to opening an official criminal investigation into the affair.

"Mr Young was dismissed on Tuesday on the grounds of gross misconduct," a Morgan Grenfell spokesman said yesterday.

Imro, the investment management regulator, is already in discussions with the SFO and has agreed to pass on any information which its own investigation uncovers.

If the SFO does open a case it could take months before criminal charges, if any, are brought against Mr Young.

## Retail sales promise pre-election boom

DIANE COYLE  
 Economics Editor

Retail sales volumes grew at their fastest rate for eight years during the summer, confirming that the Government would get the pre-election boom in the economy it had been hoping for.

But the latest evidence of surging consumer spending is likely to bring the Chancellor of the Exchequer into conflict with the Bank of England over interest rates. Minutes of the meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the end of July published yesterday revealed that the Bank wanted higher interest rates because of the pick-up in demand.

As a result Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealings in three of its once top-performing funds, two of them managed by Mr Young, on 2 September. The third fund was managed by Stewart Armer, who is also suspended from his job.

Regulations say funds should invest no more than 10 per cent of their assets in such companies which are difficult to value and often volatile, but Mr Young's funds had three times as much.

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move will have to be an increase. The prospect of clashes between the Governor and the Chancellor, next due to meet on Monday, unsettled the financial markets. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares ended nearly 17 points lower at 3,955.6.

"An interest rate rise is obviously closer. But the Chancellor will not wait it before the election," said Marian Bell, chief economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland.

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Robert Barrie at BZW agreed about the political timing. "It is whoever wins the election who will have to sort out the public finances and put interest rates up," he said.

The volume of retail sales jumped 1 per cent in August, and 1.6 per cent in the latest three months. This was the strongest advance since August 1988.

Kevin Gardiner, UK economist at investment bank Morgan Stanley, said: "Consumers

have plenty of money to spend and they are not there spending it." Lower mortgage rates, income tax cuts and consumer "windfalls" such as this year's electricity rebates have boosted spending power.

Sales of clothing and footwear and of household goods explained much of the summer's increase in high street spending. The clothing, footwear and textiles category was up 5.6 per cent in the latest three months.

The weakest area was food sales. The volume of sales in food stores rose by only 0.3 per cent in the latest three months and by 0.6 per cent compared with a year earlier.

The cash value of sales on the high street increased by 6.4 per cent in the three months to August compared with a year earlier. Yesterday's surprisingly buoyant figures supported the case made by Mr George at the 30 July monetary meeting.

The Governor argued then that the expected pick-up in demand had started. According to the minutes: "On that basis the Bank saw no justification for further policy stimulus. In fact, as the Chancellor knew, the Bank would prefer short-term rates at 6 per cent."

Investment column, page 20

## Swiss Bank dives £980m into the red

Swiss Bank Corporation will declare a SF1.9bn (£980m) loss in 1996 after SF3.3bn of extraordinary charges to cover bad debts, a revaluation of its property portfolio and an extensive restructuring to cut costs, writes Jill Treanor.

The bank said yesterday that sweeping changes in Switzerland will lead to 1,700 job losses among 13,000 in its domestic arm. SBC, Switzerland's third largest bank and the owner of London-based investment bank SBC Warburg, said it would not pay a dividend but instead would make a capital repayment

of 10 Swiss francs next year.

It described the loss as "technical" and said that it expected to make a group operating profit of SF1.4bn in 1996 compared with SF1.05bn in 1995.

But that profit will not be enough to outweigh the charges it will be forced to take this year. SBC is writing off SF2.4bn had debts and revaluing its property portfolio at cost of SF900m. The balance is the cost of restructuring.

The clean-up of the accounts prompted speculation that the bank may be preparing to list itself in New York.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100							Dow Jones	Nikkei	
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Year Ago			
FTSE 100	2,955.70	-18.60	-0.4	3,077.20	2,852.30	3,044			
FTSE 250	4,433.60	-16.40	-0.4	4,568.60	4,015.30	3,434			
FTSE 350	1,974.60	-9.10	-0.4	1,985.60	1,816.80	3,63			
FT Small Cap	2,188.99	-1.09	-0.4	2,244.36	1,954.06	3,04			
FT All Share	1,950.79	-7.43	-0.4	1,961.01	1,791.95	3,77			
New York	587.81	-17.02	-0.3	598.20	502.94	2,17			
Tokyo	11,594.03	-153.94	-0.7	12,066.60	10,204.87	3,471			
Hong Kong	2,625.70	-2.38	-0.1	2,629.07	2,253.36	1,761			
Frankfurt									

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling							UK medium gilt	US long bond	
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Term (3)	Year Ago	Long Term	10/10/96			
UK	5.75	6.08	7.78	7.82	7.91	7.91			
US	3.31	5.91	6.80	6.12	7.01	6.47			

# Next trick is to sweat those assets

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Half-year figures from Next yesterday, showing a dramatic rise in pre-exceptional trading profits from £44.1m to £56m, suggested the clothes retailer's miraculous step back from the abyss five years ago remains as surefooted as ever.

The 4 per cent decline in the share price, 26.5p to 57.5p, implied the recovery was running out of steam. Which is right?

Unhelpfully, the answer is probably both. Having moved effortlessly into the FTSE 100 index this summer, and with a market value of over £2bn, it would be too much to expect the renaissance to continue at the same rate for ever and the market found enough in the sales figures since the half-year to worry about.

That said, however, it is hard to argue with like-for-like sales growth of 17 per cent leading to an operating profit increase of 37 per cent.

What is even more impressive is the fact that with more than 300 shops Next has in effect covered 90 per cent of the UK population.

What it is achieving is not the relatively easy act of buying growth through geographical expansion, but the harder trick of making its existing assets sweat that bit harder.

To be honest, it is not altogether clear why Next is such a success. Its formula looked extremely fresh in the mid-1980s when it took the dowdy British high street by storm, but it is now hardly unique, the clothes are not noticeably better quality or value than in comparable stores. In short it is hard to see what exactly the company's competitive advantage is.

The company is also plainly having its problems in exporting the concept overseas. Neither the French nor the Americans have taken the Next look to their hearts so management can be commended on dipping a fairly tentative toe into both markets.

No harm really done if the attempts are ultimately abandoned, but faced with a maturing market at home it would be a concern to investors if there really is no scope to move elsewhere.

No surprise then that some shareholders should be pocketing a profit after a 32 per cent rise since the beginning of the year.

Even after the fall yesterday, the shares are 26 per cent up on the year, a handsome outperformance of both the market and the rest of the retail sector. Since the black days at the beginning of 1991 when you could have picked the stock up for 13p, the shares have multiplied a sensational 44 times.

On the basis of BZW's forecast of £155m this year and £179m next time,

those shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 19 falling to 17. Compared with a growth rate in the low teens, that rating leaves little scope for further outperformance. High enough.

### Midland waiting at the altar

Midland Independent has become the bridesmaid of the regional newspaper world. In a rapidly consolidating sector where everybody seems to be getting hitched, the publisher of the *Birmingham Post* has been left waiting at the altar, failing on three occasions in the last couple of years to get into bed with other regional newspaper groups.

The latest abortive attempt, to buy Emap's regional titles, cost Midland £1.4m in acquisition costs. These helped to restrict operating profits in the six months to June to £3.9m, down from £10.7m last time.

A sharp rise in newsprint prices in the first half, trailed in a profits warn-

ing in May, added £2.3m to costs, while advertising revenue was "patchy", according to Midland chief executive Chris Oakley, due to "uncertain consumer demand".

Closing two loss-making titles in Leicester and Nottingham cost another £3.1m, pushing pre-tax profits after exceptional down from £9.4m to £3.7m. The dividend, up 8 per cent to 1.2p, was uncovered by earnings.

Since the half-year, Midland has managed to tie the knot by paying Newsquest £12m for seven free newspaper titles in the north Midlands. But Midland still has to come up with the deal that will secure its position in the regional newspaper shake-out.

If Midland fails to make a move it could be snappled up itself. Michael Green's Carlton, owner of Birmingham-based Central TV, is a likely suitor. Midland would be an ideal way for Carlton to develop its interest in US-style local television similar to that being entertained in Manchester by media giant Granada, the Manchester Evening News, Manchester United and cable operator Nynex.

This City TV concept has already

been adopted to a certain degree by Midland in conjunction with the Mirror Group's Live TV subsidiary. Birmingham Live now reaches almost 100,000 subscribers and is on course to break even by the end of 1998.

Brokers Panmure Gordon look for normalised pre-tax profits of £16m rising to £20m in 1997, implying a p/e of 17 falling to 13 with the shares at 130p. Hold.

### Wassall shakes Hanson's curse

Wassall is proof that in investment, as in other areas of life, the truth will eventually come out. For three years the shares have suffered the curse of Hanson, studiously ignoring earnings growth during that period of well in excess of 20 per cent a year. Yesterday they jumped 16p to 308.5p as investors realised that not all diversified industrial groups are made equal.

Underlying profits growth of 32 per cent, an increase in earnings per share of a fraction more and a dividend rise of 35 per cent to 2.1p confirmed another exceptional set of figures, the most striking feature of which was another cracking period from General Cable, which is turning out to have been a first-rate acquisition.

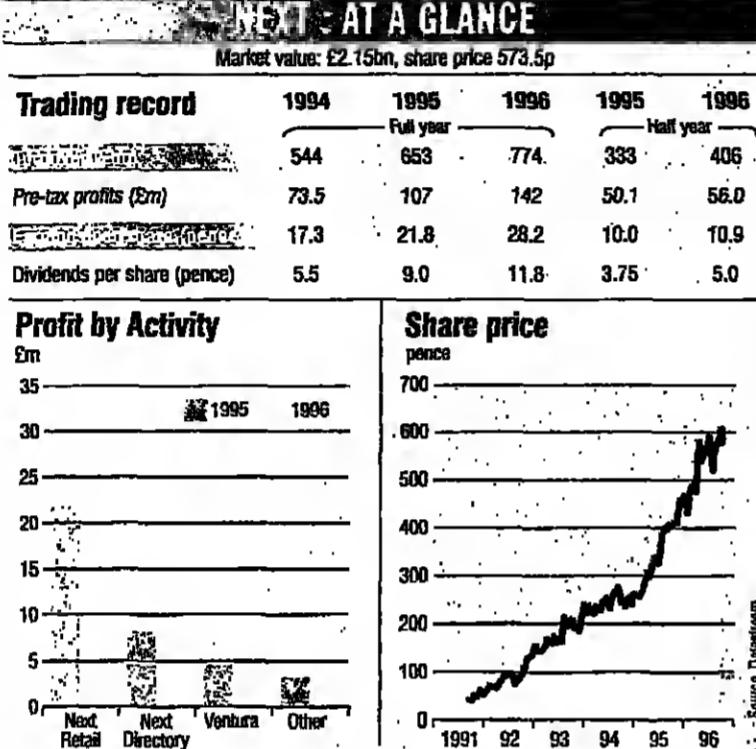
Margin growth is right at the top end of expectations and fast heading towards the 7 per cent target management set when it saw what its most efficient competitors were able to achieve. Cost cuts are also building up nicely from reduced stocks to better distribution, the addition of more value-added products and better marketing.

All that led to an extremely impressive jump in divisional profits from £11.6m to £17.9m, quite the best performer from what is easily Wassall's biggest division. Elsewhere, adhesives, sealants and other building materials group DAP benefited from tough cost controls in otherwise quite difficult markets and profits rose from £3.5m to £4.5m on flatish sales.

Wassall needs to find its next acquisition to keep the momentum going, but even without it earnings per share are forecast to grow at 13 per cent this year and 19 per cent next time on the basis of expected profits of £64m this year and £77m next.

In that context, a prospective p/e ratio of 15 falling to 12 is not demanding. Even if the shares only track the company's earnings growth they should see reasonable growth by the end of 1997. Good value.

Gehe and UniChem expect that the OFT will not make its



## Profit dip prompts Dagenham cost-cutting drive

CHRIS GODSMARK

Business Correspondent

Dagenham Motors, Britain's biggest Ford dealer, yesterday pledged to undertake a root and branch cost-cutting drive after reporting its first drop in profits since 1992.

The news, and the warning of a similar downturn in the second half of this year, sent Dagenham's shares diving by slightly more than 10 per cent from 137.5p to 123.5p. The

company also suggested the improvement in consumer confidence had had less impact on the car market than previously thought.

David Philip, Dagenham's chairman, said management changes were being made at some of its 15 car and truck dealerships after sales targets set by Ford had been missed, which meant the company failed to win bonuses from the manufacturer.

It was only after the end of

August that Dagenham realised disappointing June sales figures meant it had not done enough to qualify for the extra cash bonus payments from Ford, which are based on three-month sales targets.

This alone cut profits by £500,000 in the first six months of the year, an average of about £100 for each of the 5,748 vehicles sold.

The problems mean Dagenham's profit margin on new car sales crashed by 20 per

cent, whereas earnings from used cars increased by 14 per cent. Half-yearly pre-tax earnings slid by 6.4 per cent to £2.35m despite a 5 per cent increase in car sales to £147m.

"This is the first glitch we've had since coming out of recession," said a clearly disappointed Mr Philip, who added that August, which accounts for about a quarter of car sales, had also been worse than expected.

Ford's national market share

in the first P-registration month fell from 21 per cent to just over 18 per cent as the manufacturer did less than usual to boost its figures by "pre-registering" cars with dealers.

Mr Philip said: "We didn't make as much money in August this year but I don't know how much yet. The downturn in the first half of the year looks like continuing in the second half."

He said he was confident cost-cutting measures, including some reduction in the firm's

1,200-strong workforce through natural wastage, would restore profits next year.

One target for cost-cutting was the £3m Dagenham spends each year on storing and distributing cars to its dealer network. The company said there had been no hostility from Ford over the workings of the car maker's bonus promotions. Several new or revised Ford models were due in showrooms which should reduce the reliance on cash bonuses.

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THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

# UniChem set to renew contest for Lloyds Chemists

ELISABETH KLEIN

The takeover fight between UniChem and Gehe for control of Lloyds Chemists, the second biggest pharmacy chain in the UK, is set to be renewed in the middle of next month.

UniChem said yesterday, as it announced a near 16 per cent rise in interim profits to £25m, that it had completed its preparations, by handing over a list of British companies interested in buying six of Lloyds warehouses to the Office of Fair Trading. Gehe, the German group, said it would hand over its own list of potential buyers for the warehouses next week.

The competition authorities have ruled that neither company can rebid unless the warehouses are sold. The condition was imposed following a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into Gehe's and UniChem's original takeover bids earlier this year.

UniChem is keen to get its new takeover bid underway. Jeff Harris, its chief executive, said: "We believe this process should be speeded up. We found a number of potential buyers for the warehouses on our own as well as Lloyds suggesting some."

Gehe, however, is examining the buyers identified by Lloyds for the warehouses. "At the moment we are examining the prospective buyers suggested by Lloyds. This process will be finished by next week and we will then go with this list to the OFT," said the Gehe chief Dieter Kaemmerer.

Both rival suitors said that the sale of the warehouses was a side issue, and had little bearing on the price of a fresh takeover offer. "The warehouses are not valuable. I don't think that their sale will make a lot of money. We would have planned to sell them over a longer period of time anyway," said Mr Harris.

Gehe and UniChem expect that the OFT will not make its



Jeff Harris: Keen to get UniChem's new bid underway

recommendation about whether the two companies can bid until early next month. The final green light for any renewed takeover bids will be at the behest of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Harris yesterday pointed out that strategically Lloyds would still make a very good acquisition for UniChem. "We take a long-term strategic view in the valuing of Lloyds Chemists."

The poor performance of Lloyds during the last months — since the beginning of the year the results went down nearly by 20 per cent — doesn't influence UniChem's valuation of Lloyds. Mr Harris said: "We don't understand the reasoning for a lower price. The conditions are more or less still the same as in February. What we are interested in are their 920 pharm-

acies. That is what is of value to us and not the fact that Lloyds might be in a difficult period due to management problems."

Gehe, though, takes a different view. It is questioning whether Lloyds is still worth the £650m it bid at the beginning of the year. Even so, Mr Kaemmerer said: "Our interest in the acquisition of Lloyds is as strong as ever. I don't think that even a less profitable sell of the warehouses will influence our determination."

Analysts expect that Gehe's offer will be all cash, while UniChem's offer will be a mixture of cash and shares.

UniChem's turnover in the six months to end-June increased by 3 per cent to £718.6m. The interim dividend is being raised 11 per cent to 3p. Its shares rose by 2.5p to 259p, while Lloyds' advanced by 5p to 503.5p.

COMPANY RESULTS					
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
AIR Systems (I)	237m (-)	-0.23m (-0.12m)	3.05p (1.62p)	- (·)	
Ark Control (I)	2.48m (2.70m)	0.13m (0.23m)	0.9p (1.7p)	0.6p (·)	
Carrie Gaskets (I)	126m (97.1m)	10.5m (9.37m)	3.34p (2.8p)	1.05p (0.5p)	
Chemopat (I)	5.02m (1.55m)	-7.95m (-3.36m)	-16.22p (-8.5p)	- (·)	
Domestic End ProPERTIES (I)	- (-)	0.29m (0.50m)	0.5p (0.72p)	0.55p (0.55p)	
Envirope (I)	- (-)	42.5m (39.8m)	12.36p (11.31p)	3.21p (3p)	
Erhardt Assurance (I)	- (-)	27.2m (30.9m)	3.2p (3.27p)	5p (4.6p)	
Hyatt Group (I)	462m (519m)	24.6m (45.8m)	5.5p (11p)	5.05p (5.05p)	
Capital Initiatives (I)	42.0m (15.4m)	3.67m (3.56m)	6.7p (7.3p)	2.7p (2.5p)	
Castrol (I)	357m (454m)	-19.2m (-10.4m)	-30.2p (-21.6p)	- (·)	
Dagenham Motors (I)	147m (134m)	2.35m (2.51m)	2.3p (2.6p)	2.2p (2.2p)	
Harding (I)	628m (666m)	-14.2m (15.0m)	-25p (5.5p)	nd (4p)	
Kwik-Fit (I)	220m (182m)	21.5m (18.1m)	8.52p (7.35p)	3.1p (1.5p)	
S Light (F)	16.9m (16.9m)	-0.67m (-0.58m)	-9.2p (-4.08p)	- (·)	
Midland and Newspapers (I)	56.4m (50.1m)	3.65m (16.3m)	4.01p (7.7p)	1.3p (3.50p)	
MIL Instruments (I)	20.3m (17.3m)	2.45m (2.56m)	8.4p (8.5p)	2.1p (2p)	
MI-1 Group (F)	38.4m (41.4m)	4.81m (3.1			



## COMMENT

'Mr Clarke has cut income tax and interest rates. He has disagreed with the advice of the Governor of the Bank of England five times in little over a year. Every time he has erred on the side of faster growth rather than lower inflation.'

## Clarke's policy is taking on an Italian flavour

Guess which country has one of the highest inflation rates in Europe, alongside one of the biggest government deficits as a share of GDP? Italy, certainly, and yes, Spain too. To these two, however, must be added the UK, which also joins them in having one of the least prudently managed economies in Europe. Ministers may be justified in boasting about their economic achievement, but the international comparison is still a less-than-flattering one.

Britain is enjoying the best inflation performance for a generation mainly because inflation is low everywhere else too. While government borrowing has risen in both France and Germany, this is largely because of economic slowdown. In the UK it remains high despite five years of growth. The financial markets have delivered their verdict. Only Italian and Spanish government bonds have higher yields than gilts.

Markets are not going to accept Ken Clarke's assertion that he is a prudent Chancellor until there is decisive evidence that he is prepared to do something unpopular, like raising interest rates in the months before a general election. For, so far, the economy is displaying the classic pre-election pattern. Growth is accelerating and many indicators are returning to levels last seen in the late 1980s. Government policy is also in its election campaign phase. Government spending is running ahead of plans. Mr Clarke has cut income tax and interest rates. He has disagreed with the advice of

the Governor of the Bank of England five times in little over a year. Every time he has erred on the side of faster growth rather than lower inflation.

Views about the timing and direction of the next move in rates vary widely. Some think base rates will rise before the likely election date in May because evidence of a boom will force the Governor of the Bank of England to push much harder for a precautionary increase. Others think Mr Clarke will manage to hold off an interest rate rise with a cautious Budget, leaving the next government to put both fiscal and monetary policy back in order. A few still think he will brazen out a further reduction in rates using the expected decline in headline inflation during the next few months as an excuse.

The Chancellor will improve his credibility if he resists the temptations of extra tax and base rate cuts. It is clear the economy does not need them. Enough has been done to create a benign economic backdrop for the Conservatives in time for a spring poll. Mr Clarke's most important task is to do what's best for Britain, and get his Government's policies out of the Italian league.

### What Dye needs is a stock market crash

Tony Dye, head of investment at Phillips & Drew Fund Management (PDFM), cannot be enjoying the present media focus

on his investment strategy. He probably could have survived what has become caricatured as PDFM's 'dash for cash' had this remained a private City matter. After all, in his time, Mr Dye has been one of the City's top performing fund managers. But with the glare of publicity now following his every movement, he seriously needs a stock market crash to vindicate his position. If the markets continue to move against him, the wolves will be at his door.

Nor will it just be his job which is under threat, if the rumours are correct. Mr Dye is a man who likes to back his judgement with his own personal wealth. According to colleagues, he personally has more than is sensible riding on a Wall Street crash.

As always, however, much has been distorted in the hype that surrounds this story. Fundamentally, there is nothing wrong with Mr Dye's thinking. Most London fund managers are clearly round to the view that equities are seriously overvalued. Nor is he entirely alone in having an abnormally large cash position. Even the mighty Prudential has increased the proportion of its pension fund assets in cash to approaching 9 per cent. Mercury Asset Management and others have also been substantially reducing their exposure to UK equities in recent months. Where PDFM is out on a limb is in the size of its cash mountain. It is unusual for a manager of pension fund money to be liquid to the extent of any more than 7 per cent of assets: Mr Dye is 15 per cent liquid. More-

over, he has been in that position for quite some while now.

Fund managers don't get paid their quarter per cent just for the job of sticking their clients' money in the bank. Understandably, there is concern among PDFM clients, for to the extent that they have been put into cash, they have missed out on 14 per cent plus returns on equities so far this year. Mr Dye has courted controversy before in his investment approach, and usually has proved right in the end. While there's no doubt that PDFM has got its timing badly wrong in anticipating a market collapse, everything tells you that its strategy is fundamentally sound this time too. Equities are heading for a big correction. Only the timing and extent of it are in doubt. The last laugh could yet belong to Mr Dye.

### Job cuts at BA is not entirely bad news

Reports that British Airways is about to turn itself into a 'virtual airline' appear to be a little premature. Undoubtedly, if you happen to work in baggage handling or check-in, then New BA in the New Millennium, as the slogan has it, ain't going to be the place for you in a few years' time.

But the idea that BA's chief executive, Bob Ayling, is about to take the axe to the airline, slashing its workforce so hard that the only folk it will employ are those who fly

planes or sell tickets, looks fanciful. True, BA intends to take 5,000 out of the headcount over the next 18 months as it strives to achieve cost reductions of £1bn. But it also intends to take on just as many people so that by the end of the exercise its workforce will be... exactly the same. A greater proportion of them will be 'skilled in customer services and languages', as the PR bump puts it, and fewer will have engine greases under their fingernails.

After all, you don't exactly need to be a polyglot to change a fan blade. In the brave new world of BA, whoever can do the job at the market cost rate will get it. This sort of cost-cutting through outsourcing is the mantra they chant at the best management schools.

The added stimulus BA has is that, profitably as it might be, the cost of flying every seat mile is growing faster than the price customers are prepared to pay for every seat mile. Those beds in the sky, seat-back videos and in-flight gambling dens do not come cheap.

Virtual airline or not, it is understandable that BA's unions should be a little twitchy about Mr Ayling's vision - hence their line of leaking the story two weeks ago. Perhaps they should take comfort from the alliance BA is stitching up with American Airlines. Over there, the airline unions know a thing or two about how to bring their industrial muscle to bear when confronted with this sort of thing.



Cock-a-Hoopers: Sir Ian Prosser who heads Bass which has picked up a large slice of the alcopop market

## Alcopop adds fizz to Bass results

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Bass yesterday confirmed the dramatic success of Hoopers Hooch, the alcoholic lemonade that is estimated to have taken about 70 per cent of the fast-growing and controversial market for so-called alcopops.

Sales are running at an annualised rate of 300,000 barrels, Bass said in a trading statement, an extremely high sales volume for such a young product.

The figure adds substance to the claim last week by Matthew Clark, the cider maker, that the alcopops were eating into the

markets traditionally enjoyed by traditional premium ciders and lagers. News of the shift in demand sent Clark's share price plummeting to half their value before the profit warning.

Bass's success in its drinks arm was offset by competition from another new threat as the National Lottery continued to divert leisure spending away from its Gala bingo clubs. At the half-year Gala saw profits fall from £22m to £19m and Bass, headed by Sir Ian Prosser, warned yesterday that, despite opening five more clubs, total admissions were running 4 per cent below last year. A higher

spend per head had not been sufficient to compensate for the lower numbers.

That had led Bass said, to operating profits from its leisure retailing division, which includes the Coral betting arm, being "somewhat below last year". But Bass Taverns enjoyed a good summer and to date sales are 16 per cent higher.

In brewing Bass continues to wait on the Office of Fair Trading which is taking submissions until next week on Bass Brewers' planned merger with Carlsberg-Tetley. A decision is expected by the middle of next month on whether to refer the

## National Power forecasts sharp fall in prices

MICHAEL HARRISON

Electricity prices could fall sharply when the market is thrown open to competition in 1998 and coal-backed contracts between the generators and regional electricity companies expire, National Power forecast yesterday.

Keith Henry, chief executive of the generator, rejected suggestions that prices would "collapse" but he did concede that domestic consumers would see significant real reductions. Some analysts believe it could cut National Power's earnings by £200m but the company says the impact will be much less than.

Mr Henry said that the end of the coal contracts, under which National Power, PowerGen and Eastern are obliged to buy British coal supplies at 15-20 per cent above world prices, would allow the generators to enter new lower-priced fuel deals.

Speaking at a one-day presentation for investors in London, Mr Henry said that prices would also be forced down by suppliers seeking keenest deals with the generators and competition between suppliers themselves.

At present, the generators are contracted to buy 30 million tonnes of domestic coal a year, mainly from Richard Budge's RJB Mining which took over the English coalfields last year.

National Power is paying around £1.40 a gigajoule against a world spot price of about £1.20. A spokesman said: "It is in our interests and those of RJB

to do a sensible deal." He added that since world prices were edging closer to those paid to RJB, the gap between the two might only be a narrow one when they came to negotiate new contracts, probably next year.

Mr Henry also forecast that National Power's profits from its overseas operations would more than double by £70m this year to £145m next year before financing costs. Profit after tax would rise from £30m to £55m, producing an increase in earnings per share from 2.5p to 8p.

The generator estimates that 40 per cent of its assets worth £2bn would be overseas by the turn of the century compared with just 6 per cent at March 1996. Since then, however, it has completed three power station deals in the US, Australia and Pakistan, increasing its overseas operations substantially.

National Power has invested £800m in 7,000 megawatts of overseas generating plant. Total output from these stations is forecast to double to 50 billion units of electricity by 2000.

The company also confirmed that earnings in the first half of the current financial year would be "somewhat less" than in the same period in 1995. This, it said, was largely accounted for by the extra week in its first half last year which affected profits by £20m-£30m.

The impact of new entrants on its market share would be offset by the closure of older coal-fired plant and Magnox nuclear reactors, Mr Henry said.

## Glaxo pulls out of project to develop asthma drug

PATRICK TOOHER

British Biotech, Europe's leading biotechnology firm, suffered a setback yesterday when project partner Glaxo Wellcome said it had not taken up an option to develop lepiratop, an oral drug for the treatment of chronic asthma.

However, the City took the news in its stride and after falling in early trade Biotech's shares, which have fluctuated wildly in recent months on prospects for an anti-cancer drug, recovered to close 2p higher at 203.5p.

"The asthma drug was not a top priority programme for us," said James Noble, Biotech's finance director.

Analysis concurred. "British Biotech had not intended to develop lepiratop itself for asthma, and as the market leader in asthma treatment, Glaxo felt it was important to evaluate the

drug," said Mark Brewer of Biotech's brokers, ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

Instead analysts took comfort from confident statements about two other drugs Biotech is developing. Acute pancreatitis drug Lexipapafit could be submitted for approval in early 1997 and be on the market a year later, while the US Food and Drug Administration has approved the start of late-stage trials of Marimastat, Biotech's potential blockbuster drug in four additional cancers.

More information should be available in November when results of late-stage trials of Lexipapafit will be published. ABN Amro Hoare Govett predicts peak turnover of £300m a year for the drug. Raw data on Marimastat, including analysis of its effectiveness in stomach, colo-rectal, ovarian, and pancreatic cancer, will be presented to the European Society of

Medical Oncology in Vienna the same month.

The Oxford-based group, which is seen as a bellwether for Britain's biotech industry, posted losses of £8.0m in the three months to July compared with £7.0m a year ago.

The company ended the first quarter with cash reserves of £200m. Biotech expects spending in the year to April will rise to around £40m as it moves drugs towards the market, builds laboratories and consolidates operations.

British Biotech was one of many biotech companies to go to the market for cash this year. A controversial rights issue in July raised £143m but coincided with a bout of nerves and profit-taking among investors.

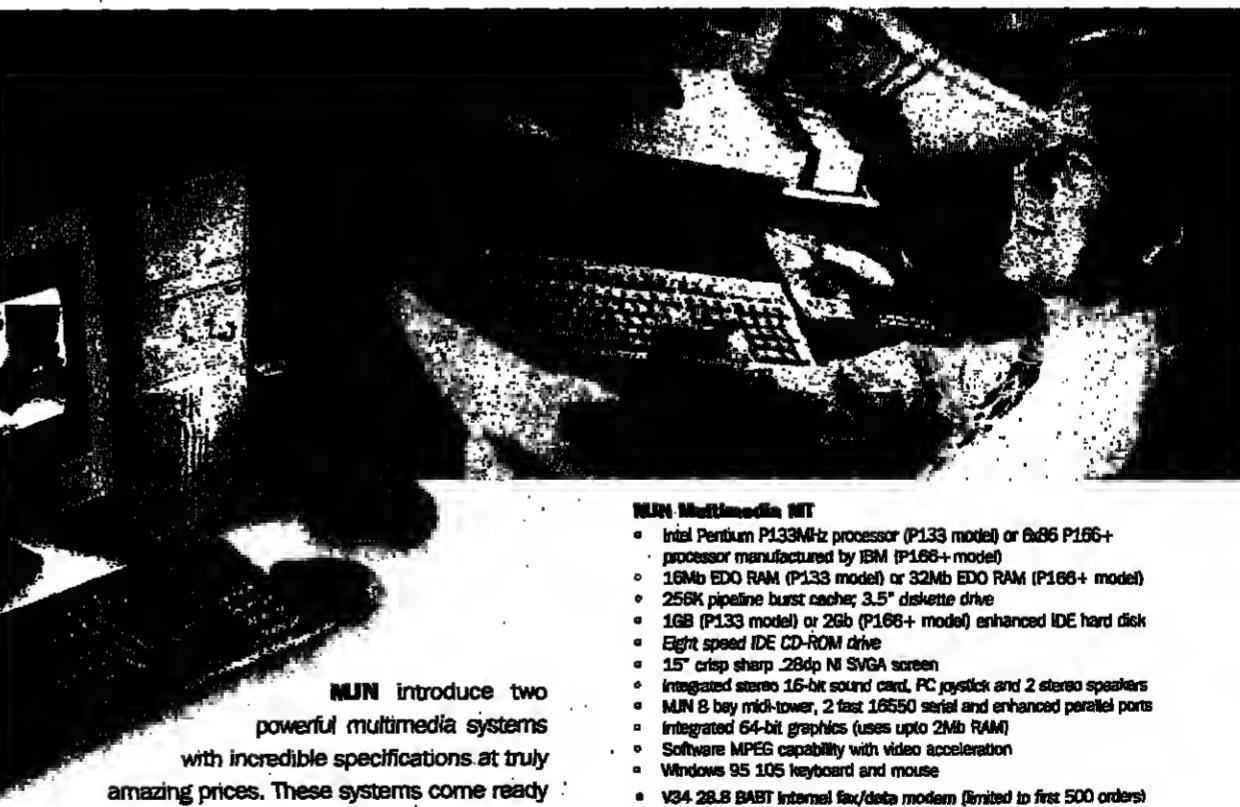
Earlier this year British Biotech presented clinical trial results on Marimastat that sent the company's share price soaring to 350p and provided the base for the subsequent rights issue. However, the shares later slumped on news that medical researchers had found that cancer patients on the drug fared little better than those on no treatment.

British Biotech hit the headlines again last month with plans to introduce a more generous bonus and share option scheme to attract top international executives. Under the proposals, the company can award as many shares as it likes to an individual every year as long as it does not issue more than 10 per cent of its share capital over 10 years for all employee share schemes.

One beneficiary of the plan, which was approved by shareholders yesterday at their annual meeting, is Pam Kirby, formerly with Sweden's Astra, who was appointed to establish British Biotech in continental Europe.

**"The MJN is one of the best value systems on the market today"**

PC Advisor Magazine August 96



### MJN Multimedia INT

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- GP Software suite with Presentworks, Designworks, Homewise and Money
- CD Multimedia discs including Encyclopaedia Britannica 95, Encyclopaedia Britannica 96, Encyclopaedia Britannica 97, Encyclopaedia Britannica 98, Encyclopaedia Britannica 99, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2000, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2001, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2002, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2003, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2004, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2005, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2006, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2007, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2008, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2009, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2010, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2011, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2012, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2013, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2014, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2016, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2017, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2018, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2019, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2020, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2021, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2022, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2023, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2024, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2025, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2026, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2027, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2028, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2029, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2030, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2031, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2032, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2033, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2034, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2035, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2036, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2037, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2038, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2039, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2040, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2041, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2042, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2043, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2044, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2045, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2046, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2047, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2048, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2049, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2050, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2051, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2052, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2053, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2054, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2055, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2056, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2057, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2058, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2059, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2060, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2061, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2062, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2063, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2064, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2065, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2066, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2067, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2068, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2069, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2070, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2071, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2072, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2073, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2074, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2075, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2076, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2077, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2078, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2079, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2080, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2081, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2082, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2083, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2084, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2085, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2086, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2087, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2088, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2089, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2090, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2091, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2092, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2093, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2094, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2095, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2096, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2097, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2098, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2099, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2100, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2101, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2102, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2103, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2104, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2105, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2106, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2107, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2108, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2109, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2110, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2111, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2112, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2113, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2114, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2115, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2116, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2117, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2118, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2119, Encyclopaedia Britannica 2120, Encyclopaedia





## The glamour is in the game, not necessarily the lifestyle

An editor for whom I worked once came up with the idea of a weekly column about the social activities of sporting heroes. "We want all the gossip," he said. "Who's drinking too much, who's cheating on his wife, the playboys, the gamblers."

It came to nothing. After an exploratory trawl through places of nocturnal entertainment, the reporter realised that his notes involved only a handful of people. Thinking particularly about footballers, the truth then, as now, is that for every one who hit the town, 200 were pushing trolleys around supermarkets.

Modern affluence blurs the fact that footballers in the main are quite ordinary people. This is hard to convey, because newspapers and

television unfailingly promote the notion of a glamorous existence. The glamour is the game, not necessarily the lifestyle.

That random alcohol tests are being introduced following the admission of a serious drink problem by the Arsenal and England captain, Tony Adams, may have led to the impression that booze is a modern phenomenon in British football.

For no reason beyond vague curiosity about recent events, I have thought about this in the context of personal experience. As a teenage professional player, I was required to take daily a foul mixture of vitamins and glucose for body-building purposes. An old player stated bluntly that there was more good in a glass of Guinness. Taking his

word for it, I ended up drunk and in front of the manager, a stern man who fined me two pounds 10 shillings, a quarter of what I was picking up weekly.

It did not surprise me to discover that footballers took a drink. My father and his four brothers, all professional players, two of them Welsh internationals, were keen on it. In their case, and that of many players at that time, it had something to do with having worked in the pits, but in any case, it seemed part of the culture.

Before Roy Paul went on to make a name for himself as captain of Manchester City, playing many times for Wales, he turned out for the then Swansea Town under an extraordinary figure, Billy McCandless,

who bore a marked resemblance to Benito Mussolini. Once, at a board meeting, it was brought to McCandless' gruff attention that Paul was in the habit of going to a bar on the eve of home matches. "When they can all play as well as Roy, they can

all go drinking on Fridays," McCandless retorted. This did not do Paul much good because, by his own admission, he eventually ended up with a serious problem.

Many of the players who comprised Tottenham Hotspur's famed Double-winning team 35 years ago were pretty special too when they left the need for refuelling. Alcohol never passed Danny Blanchflower's lips, but the rest made up for him. An international who joined the team shortly afterwards, it was joked that if Scotland ever had a drinking team, he would be the coach.

At the time, or perhaps a little earlier, I cannot remember exactly, there was a small drinking club in the West End of London known as the Madelaine. It was run by one

Manchester City. Behind the bar you would find one of Arsenal's finest inside-forwards and one time captain, the lovable Jimmy Logie.

Despite the present alarms about drink and drugs in football, it occurs to me that nothing much has changed. Certainly not the free time that is available.

When Jimmy Johnstone was dancing along the right wing for Celtic, an attempt was made to describe a day in his life. "I go in for training," Johnstone said, "have a bite to eat afterwards, then play snooker."

"What then?"  
"I just hang about [sic]," he replied.

Thinking back to the sweet, long ago, that, it seems, is the problem.



KEN JONES

## Championship is only Leicestershire's to lose

The final round of cricket's County Championship is upon us, and although Leicestershire are clear favourites, two other outcomes are still possible, with Kent and Surrey both well placed to triumph should either weather or nerves intervene. As none of the top three are used to winning competitions, they will be as apprehensive as newly hatched butterflies and there could still be an unexpected twist to the summer's final showdown.

Leicestershire, who play Middlessex at Grace Road, need 11 points to clinch the title they won for the first and only time in 1975. A draw with a full complement of bonus points would be enough, although their inspirational captain, James Whitaker, claims they intend to win, and in fine style too.

In a game beset by increasingly obtuse statistics, one of the more telling ones is that Leicestershire have used just 13 players this season. With Alan Mullally missing half the county games on England duty and Whitaker out for three weeks with a torn calf muscle, it is an amazing record. One that possibly explains the claim of the coach, Jack Birkenshaw, that:

Derek Pringle believes only foul weather can stop Whitaker's men in the final game

"They are a team on and off the field".

It is one of the few unexplained phenomena of cricket, how forgotten sides from the middle of the table suddenly take on renewed stature at this time of year, and pristine team ethic or not, Leicestershire will still have to play well over the next few days if they are to beat Middlesex, who are awkward opponents for this crucial final encounter.

The Londoners, who had a roller-coaster season of wins and losses, could prove dangerous should conditions suit. Unless an early strike proves decisive, Middlesex's embattled quartet of Gatting, Fraser, Ramprakash and Tuftell would all enjoy one last round of "Ho, Ho, Ho," before Christmas.

As straightforward and oppressive as the mathematics of the points system will appear to those chasing the leaders, there will be less pressure on Surrey and Kent, who need to win against Worcestershire and Gloucestershire respectively to have any chance of lifting the trophy.

If reports are accurate though, the weather, normally so reliable at this time of year, could play the most decisive role of all. Apparently, over the next few days, a low-pressure system from France is expected to bring bands of rain up from the South-east, placing both Surrey's and Leicestershire's matches at risk. If so, those playing in the West, as Kent are, may prosper should rain unfittingly decide to have the last say.

■ Kent have released their former captain Mark Benson and ex-England fast bowler Alan Iglesden. Neither had played first-class cricket this season because of injury. Benson, 38, made his debut in 1980 and played 292 first-class matches scoring more than 18,000 runs. He was appointed captain in 1991, but resigned recently and faces another knee operation after being hurt playing football in pre-season training. Iglesden, 32 next month, has played only seven first-class matches and 13 one-day games in the last two years, missing the start of this season because of a lower-back problem followed by further injury and illness.



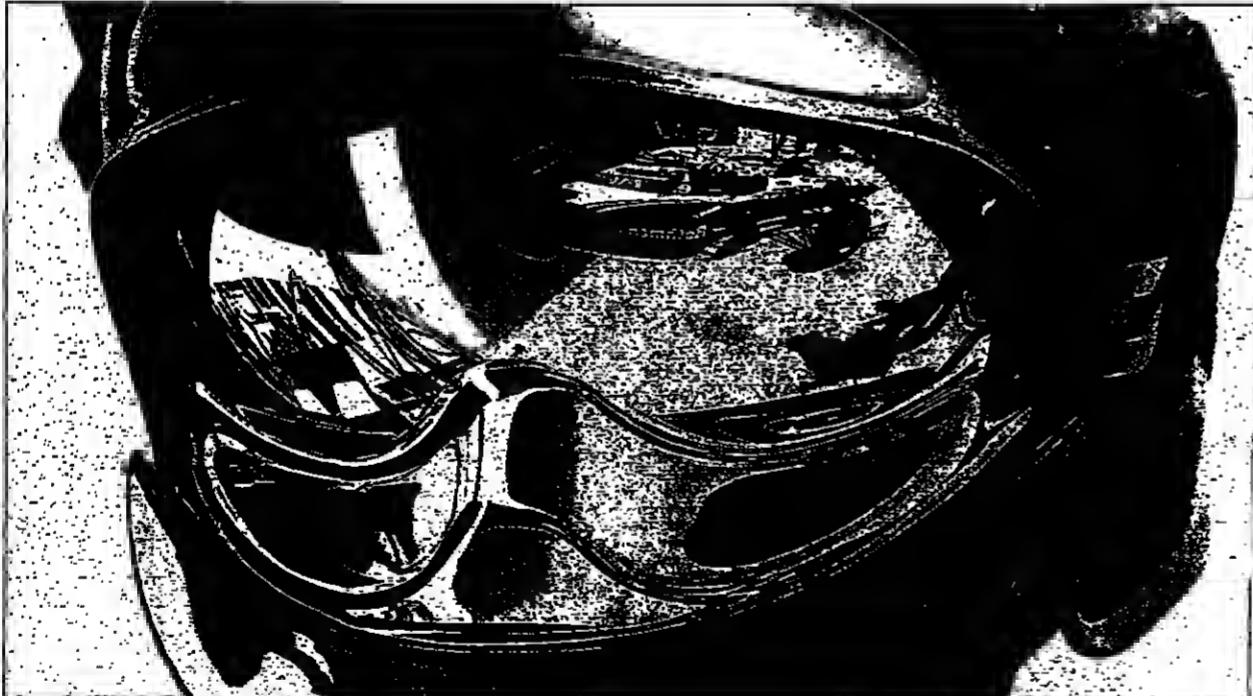
Strike action: Vincent Low, of Malaysia, gets to work on honing his skills in practice yesterday for the British Open Tenpin Bowling Championship, which begins at Nottingham Bowl today. Photograph: Peter Jay

## 1 THE INDEPENDENT

RACING

# PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM

## WIN a drive in a grand prix car



Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

**F**ormula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the season.

Even though the grand prix season is underway, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our prize for the Portuguese Grand Prix. The champion of the 1996 grand prix season will win our overall prize, a drive in a Formula One car.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list (printed right); the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category.

Details of how to enter are given on this page. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

### HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

- The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.
- Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.
- Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.
- If your driver makes the quickest pit-stop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.
- If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.
- If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.
- If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.
- The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.
- Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to

take the start, no points are lost.

- Drivers removed from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.
- Chassis score and lose points in the same way as drivers for a top six finish or any early retirement. The score is based on the first chassis home of that particular manufacturer. Likewise, only the first chassis retirement will count if they are both among the first five to retire.
- Engine rules are the same as the chassis rules, without the retirement penalties.

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million.

Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805. You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship?

To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods.

Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you

key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method.

When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win.

Once you have registered your team you will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line.

There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

### CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

### Rules

- 1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.
- 2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.
- 3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.
- 4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.
- 5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.
- 6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.
- 7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.
- 8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.
- 9. For lost PIN numbers please call: 0891 891 808. For our Helpline call: 01275 344183.
- 10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2pm on the Monday following a race.

### Shopping List

DRIVERS	CHASSIS
£25m	£20m
1 M Schumacher	40 Benetton
£23m	41 Williams
2 J Alesi	£19m
3 D Hill	42 Ferrari
£20m	£15m
4 G Berger	43 McLaren
£18m	£14m
5 D Coulthard	44 Sauber
6 E Irvine	45 Jordan
7 J Villeneuve	£10m
£13m	46 Ligier
8 M Hakkinen	£6m
9 H Frentzen	47 Tyrrell
£10m	£5m
10 M Brundle	48 Arrows
11 R Barrichello	£3m
12 J Herbert	49 Minardi
£8m	£1m
13 M Salo	50 Forti
14 P Lamby	
£4m	
15 P Diniz	
16 U Katayama	
17 J Verstappen	
18 O Panis	
£3m	
19 L Badoer	
20 R Rosset	
21 A Montermini	
£2m	
22 G Fisichella*	
23 V Sospin*	
24 T Marques*	
25 F Lagorce*	
26 H Noda*	
27 T Inoue*	
£1m	
28 M Blundell*	
29 J-C Bouillon*	
30 K Brack*	
31 K Burt*	
32 E Collard*	
33 N Fontana*	
34 D French*	
35 N Larini*	
36 J Magnussen*	
37 A Prost*	
38 G Tarquini*	
39 K Wendlinger*	

\*Not competing in Portuguese GP but may compete in Japan



DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805

TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806  
RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS: 0891 891 807

Sleep







View from behind the seventh green at Loch Lomond, voted the world's best new golf course and the venue for this weekend's World Invitational

Photograph: David Ashdown

## Faldo inspired by banks of Loch Lomond

If Nick Faldo allows the inaugural Loch Lomond World Invitational to get away from him this weekend he will have no excuses. As the European Tour swings from the ridiculous (unplayable greens at the British Masters at Collingtree) to the sublime surroundings of the bonnie bonnie banks, Faldo was moved to wax lyrical.

Indeed, to listen to the Englishman, who was so critical of conditions in Europe that he joined the US Tour, one is tempted to check the wax in one's ears. "It's just absolutely fabulous," Faldo said of Loch Lomond. Then he began to warn to his theme. "It is by far the best golf course in Great Britain by miles. The condition, the views, everything. The setting is unbelievable. I hate those courses where you can't remember anything about an individual hole, but here you can picture every hole even after just

one round. It's great to see that it can be done in this country. The greens are absolutely spot on."

Considering that Faldo and his management team, IMG, rarely get out of bed unless there's a juicy contract lying on the breakfast tray, it is tempting to contemplate how much the Masters champion was paid to take the high road to Glasgow. The answer is: nothing.

"I'm playing here," Faldo said, "because I wanted to see the course and I think this is going to become a great event. It's a good one to support." Given the venue, and the philosophy of the owner, Lyle Anderson, the event probably deserves to succeed. Refreshingly, Anderson has decided not to pay appearance money.

Officially, of course, such an incentive does not exist but try telling that to sponsors. Anderson, an

American property developer who has built courses in Scottsdale, Arizona, hosts a seniors tournament called The Tradition which became a "major" for the golden oldies after only four years.

"Our goals at Loch Lomond are similar to the goals we initiated at The Tradition," Anderson said. "We will look after the players and their families as if they were competing in a major championship; we will not burden them with requests to attend parties or pro-ams and we will set up the course for a true test which will ensure a worthy champion. Commercialism will be at a minimum. Accordingly, with the objective of creating a major world tournament, we feel appearance money would not be proper, as it is not at the existing majors. This is an opportunity for the top players to step forward and support

Tim Glover on a new championship being played this weekend on a new course

a tournament that could become one of the leading international events."

It may be called the World Invitational but the fact is most of the world's leading players have declined the invitation even though the tournament has £750,000 in prize-money with the winner receiving £125,000. The idea was to invite the top 60 in the world rankings. Only 12 have accepted; of the top 20 in the world only Faldo and Colin Montgomerie are here.

The hypocrisy in the game is breathtaking. Anderson, while accepting on the one hand that the US Tour would give very few exemptions

for players to travel to Scotland, admitted: "I think we'd have got a number of American players here if we had paid appearance fees." It is not just the Americans who have stayed away. The other day Seve Ballesteros, Europe's Ryder Cup captain, was warning players particularly Faldo, to qualify on merit for the match against the United States at Valderrama in 12 months' time. Although the World Invitational carries Ryder Cup points, Ballesteros is not here, nor Bernhard Langer.

The story of Loch Lomond, which has been named as the best new course in the world, began in 1988 when David Brench, a London developer, finally received planning permission to build 18 holes. He wanted Jack Nicklaus to design them, failed to interest the Golden Bear and instead approached Tom Weiskopf.

Weiskopf, who won the Open Championship at Troon in 1973, looked at a video of the land and visited Loch Lomond two weeks later.

The project stalled when the receivers were called in the early 1990s but Weiskopf persuaded Anderson to buy the land from the bonnie bonnie Bank of Scotland in 1994. Not that Anderson needed much persuading. It took him all of one hour to decide to do a deal.

"Loch Lomond," Weiskopf said, "is my best work. It is my lasting tribute to the game of golf."

Notwithstanding the fact that there are those who would argue that a golf course has no place at Loch Lomond, Anderson has ambitious plans. Nicklaus, perhaps realising that he should have taken the original commission, is currently designing another 18 holes. Apart

from the fact that Anderson wants his World Invitational to live up to its name in the years to come — he has no sponsor this year, despite BBC TV coverage, and expects to make a loss — he is optimistic about staging the Ryder Cup here even if it will not be before the year 2005.

As for Faldo, he may not, in Anderson's words, have received a "dime or a shilling" but there were other incentives. Having flown from Berlin, where he has designed a course, it suited his schedule. Apart from the fact that it was his daughter's birthday yesterday, Anderson hooked him with a line that, as far as Faldo was concerned, was the next best thing to appearance money: fishing. Not only has he the chance to catch trout and salmon but the wee powan, a species that can only be found in the waters of Loch Lomond.

## Sorenstam aiming for the superlative

There is a reason why Laura Davies is driving herself so hard to win the money lists in both America and Europe. Only one player — male, female or senior — has ever done it and it was not Davies. The world No 1 female golfer is not used to finding herself in such a position.

Davies can be assumed to have done most things in the game, and has, but not even she had considered the fact that Anna Sorenstam achieved last year. The Swede won six times around the globe and briefly usurped Davies as the best in the world.

Sorenstam is still ranked No 2 on the official Ping leaderboard, with Lotte Neumann just one place lower, Helen Alfredsson 12th and Catrin Nilsmark 53rd. The four Swedes form a third of the European team that take on the Americans at St Pierre, Chepstow in the fourth Solheim Cup match which starts tomorrow. It is a staggering achievement for a country that boasts only 380,000 golfers, with a third of those women.

It is a testament to the structure that is in place to make the

most of the talent they have, and where golf clubs welcome families and juniors. Pia Nilsson, a former tour player, first became captain of women's golf, and now all of golf in Sweden. This week she is acting as vice-captain to Mickey Walker, the European captain. "I was one of the first to go to college in America," Nilsson said. "We have taken the best of the American ways of doing things and incorporated that into the Swedish culture. Even not being able to play in the winter has helped. We realised we had to look at areas such as mental preparation to be the best."

The first time Sorenstam played in the final group of a big tournament in Sweden, it was nine years ago with Nilsson. "I was the established professional, so I won," Nilsson remembers. Sorenstam was only 16. "I was certainly impressed then, but as a junior she was in a group of talented players. She did not stand out then, but she has improved each year. She is a bit stubborn, and she loves to practice. She works out what she needs to work on and then does so. She is willing to listen to others, but in the end it is her who decides what she needs to do."

After a successful amateur career, Sorenstam finished runner-up four times in Europe and won the 1993 rookie of the year award. The following year she took the same honour in Amer-

The Swede is ready for this weekend's Solheim Cup test, says Andy Farrell

ers, but in the end it is her who decides what she needs to do."

After a successful amateur career, Sorenstam finished runner-up four times in Europe and won the 1993 rookie of the year award. The following year she took the same honour in Amer-



Sorenstam: 'Consistent'

ica and a maiden win followed in America.

Her first win in America was the small matter of the US Open, and this year she became the first non-American to win successive titles, by six strokes with a record score. She never found out why the course is called Pine Needles because she hardly missed a fairway or a green. "You run out of superlatives to describe the achievement," Walker said at the time. "She hit great shot after great shot. She made the other players look ordinary with her outstanding play. It is hard to believe she is only 25."

Two years ago, Sorenstam played in her first Solheim Cup, winning once and losing twice as the Americans won 13-7. "I am a better player than two years ago," she said. "All parts of my game have improved, I am more consistent. I am hitting more fairways, more greens, my putting is better. But this time it is a little different because I am supposed to be one of the top players. Every point is important wherever it comes from, but I know I have to perform."

"This is the only team event we get to play, so it is a lot of fun, but there is a lot of prestige at stake. We are not playing for money but for pride. I have been through it once so I know what to expect, but I'm sure I'll be nervous."

There is one thing Sorenstam

has not done, which Davies — and Alfredsson, Neumann and Nilsmark, who holed the winning putt — have. They were all part of Europe's victory at Dalmahoy four years ago. Sorenstam is determined to experience the same feeling on Sunday night.



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# Celtic stung by bonus dispute

## Football

ergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, and the club's manager, Tom Burns, put on a brave face yesterday as an embarrassing internal row over bonus payments rumbled on.

A 1-0 Coca-Cola Cup final defeat by Hearts today, Burns confirmed, ending Celtic players' dispute over pay.

As Burns and McCann carried out an internal inquiry into how the story was leaked, the Scottish-Canadian chairman was in no mood to bow to player power.

"The club would make the point, and a valid one which I think the players would probably agree with, that they are not only well-paid but also very well taken care of and that will continue," McCann said.

"We don't have to apologise to anybody for conditions players enjoy here at Celtic Park. I

am sure that is the feeling among the players as a whole."

There is nobody more disappointed than the players themselves that this has come out in a newspaper," Burns said, although it seems certain that the story was leaked by a player.

"This is something which will be settled internally and settled today. I've met the players and it is not a major issue."

The players that play for Celtic don't have to rely on bonuses. They are incentives which the club decides to give.

"The players are bitterly disappointed that we lost to Hearts and that they let the supporters down by this coming out. It was an internal matter which was leaked."

"But we won't go down the road of a witch-hunt. Things are said every day at either of the Old Firm clubs which could make a headline."

Reports on the dispute centre on bonuses for unused substitutes with the sanctions by the

Celtic players allegedly including a refusal to speak to the club newspaper or programme, or help in commercial activities.

McCann hinted strongly that despite the assurances of Burns that there would be no witch-hunt, the source of the story would be sought.

"I don't know where the source is, but we will deal with it internally," McCann said.

Hearts, meanwhile, will face Scottish football officials on 14 October to discuss their recent game against Rangers at Ibrox. The Tynecastle club had four players sent off in last Saturday's 3-0 defeat by Rangers.

Referee Gerry Evans' report on the match arrived yesterday at the Scottish Football Association's offices in Glasgow and the upshot is that Hearts will be asked to explain the actions of their players and their chairman, Chris Robinson, who appeared on the track at one stage.

Hearts have already been in contact with the SFA with Robinson trying to explain his presence on the touchline.

The four sent off - Pasquale Bruno, David Weir, Neil Pointon and Paul Richie - have not yet been asked to appear in person before the disciplinary committee, but SFA procedure means that could still happen at a later date.

Dundee were yesterday handed a sharp reminder of where their priorities for the season really lie. The Taysiders stormed through to the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals for the second year in succession with a sensational 2-1 win over Aberdeen at Dens Park on Tuesday night.

It was a sweet revenge win over the club which beat them in last season's Hampden final and also gave them their fourth success over top-flight opposition in the tournament in little over a year.

The Dons followed Dundee United (in the previous round) and Hearts and Kilmarnock last season out to the First Division club's list of scalps.

But John McCormack, the Dens Park assistant manager, warned: "The real interest here isn't just in grabbing the headlines by beating the big-name sides occasionally in cup competitions. We are well aware that our supporters have missed out on the Premier Division for far too long."

"We want to be meeting those top teams on a weekly basis by competing at the highest level. Promotion requires a consistent level of performance and that is what we are striving to achieve throughout this season."

of national teams," he said. "The coaches are a bit concerned that in the post-Bosman era we're in the past. In 1967, when Glasgow Celtic won the European Cup, all the players were local."

Roxburgh added that Uefa's technical committee, of which Vogts is a new member, would meet in Amsterdam in November to discuss proposals put forward at the convention and then submit them to the executive.

The most important proposal was that rather than hold international matches in midweek, a few weekends should be put aside each season, allowing national teams to play twice in the space of 10 days.

In five 10-day periods countries could play 10 internationals and clubs in the domestic top divisions, which take a weekend break ahead of a midweek international, would be asked to release players from a Monday to the Wednesday of the following week but less often each season.

The coaches also discussed the sudden-death rule, with most of them expressing their dislike of the "golden goal", the need to clarify the offside law in terms of whether or not a player on the fringe of the action was influencing play, and yellow cards.

"They fear international football could become watered down," said the former Scotland manager, Andy Roxburgh, now a Uefa technical director, at the end of the three-day convention.

Roxburgh revealed that Bertie Vogts, the coach of European champions Germany, had been at the forefront of the demands.

"Bertie led the way with an impassioned plea for the protection

of national teams," he said. "The coaches are a bit concerned that in the post-Bosman era we're in the past. In 1967, when Glasgow Celtic won the European Cup, all the players were local."

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# SPORT

## Southampton set sights on Berkovitch

### Football

ALAN NIXON AND NICK DUXBURY

Graeme Souness' overseas search for reinforcements to bring Southampton their first Premiership victory looks to have settled on the Israeli international midfielder Eyal Berkovitch.

The Southampton manager hopes that Maccabi Tel Aviv will accept his offer of £1.2m for Berkovitch, who has 40 caps. Souness has also agreed a deal with Sporting Lisbon to bring the £1.8m-rated Portuguese striker Paolo Alves to The Dell for a year on loan.

Barcelona appear to have put Miguel "The Beast" Nadal back in his Nou Camp cage even though the defender is keen on

a move to Manchester United. "Nadal now feels he would benefit his career with a move to Old Trafford but Barcelona have had a change of heart and now say they are not prepared to sanction his transfer," Martin Edwards, the United chairman, said.

"In the circumstances, our hands are tied and there is nothing more we can do. Nadal signed a new three-year contract in the summer and if they are not prepared to release him I am afraid that is the end of the story."

Roy Keane, who has not played for United since the opening game of the season after having a carpal tunnel operation, will be in the starting line-up at Aston Villa on Saturday, providing the midfielder successfully came through his reserve game last night.

The player and his club know that surgery is necessary, the only question is when. Anderson, who made only six Premiership appearances last season, is prepared to soldier on and add to Spurs injury list.

He is also mindful that England play Poland in a World Cup

qualifying tie at Wembley on 9 October.

Anderson played a full game for the first time this season on Tuesday against Preston in the Coca-Cola Cup, scoring in the second minute.

"The manager and I both

know that surgery will have to be done at some stage," he said.

"It was good to play a full 90 minutes but I am still struggling and felt a bit restricted in the second half. I tend to ache a bit but we will see how it goes in the next couple of days."

The manager, Gerry Francis, is happy to leave the final decision up to the player. "Darren

feels he can get by at the moment. We were unlucky to lose him for seven months last season. He is a very important player to the club."

Fitness is also proving elusive

for Keith Curle, the Wolverhampton Wanderers defender, who has yet to start a competitive match following his £650,000 move from Manchester City in July. The 32-year-old former England international

was sent to see a specialist in Leeds yesterday in an attempt to solve calf and heel problems.

Mark McInnes used £1.5m of

Wolves cash to buy two central defenders this summer and neither of them are available. Adrian Williams cost £750,000 from Reading, but he suffered knee ligament damage on a pre-season tour and will be sidelined at least until the end of the year.

The Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, suspended by an Argentinean court from playing for 13 months, is to quit Argentina because he fears being attacked. "I'm afraid that some madman will shoot me in the back, so I want to leave," he said. "It hurts a lot of people that a Paraguayan can be as popular as me. They think we

should just be on building sites or cleaning houses."

### City prepared to sell Kinkladze

Manchester City are ready to sell Georgi Kinkladze, with Liverpool, Arsenal and Celtic likely to be leading the bidding at around £5m, writes Alan Nixon.

The Georgian midfielder was absent as City lost 4-1 in the Coca-Cola Cup at Lincoln on Tuesday and his agent, Phillippe Hubert, arrived in England yesterday for talks about the player's future.

Francis Lee, the City chairman, is thought to be willing to sell Kinkladze in order to provide his manager-clerk, Dave Bassett, with money to spend on players. Kinkladze, officially missed the game at Lincoln with a hamstring injury, but his absence has conveniently stopped him from being cup-tied.

Liverpool's new midfielder, Patrik Berger, scored twice as the Czech Republic defeated Malta 6-0 in a Group Six World Cup qualifier. Berger opened the scoring after 12 minutes and got the third from the penalty spot in the 62nd minute.

Jamie Bates, the Brentford captain, will have a meeting with police tomorrow to decide whether to press charges against Blackpool's Gary Brabin.

Brabin was arrested last Saturday after allegedly punching

Bates in the back of the head as the pair walked down the tunnel after a 1-1 draw at Griffin Park. Bates had to be taken to hospital on a stretcher after the incident. Brabin has since been released on bail, but Bates has to decide whether or not to press charges.

"The police wanted to talk to me yesterday, but it's now been put off until Friday," Bates said. "We'll have a meeting with the manager and chairman and decide what to do.

"I honestly don't know what I want to do. I haven't decided. The main thing is that the boss has told me if I want to press charges then the club will be right behind me, but if I don't, they will back me on that too."

Bates has refused to discuss the incident, or what he thinks of Brabin. He said: "I don't know how I feel about him and I don't really want to say. I just have to put this behind me and get on with playing."

Bates played in Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup first-leg defeat against Blackburn and said: "Thankfully, the doctors gave me the go-ahead to play against Blackburn and I came through with no problems, not even a headache, so that was a relief."

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

